Ann Arbor Observer

December 1996

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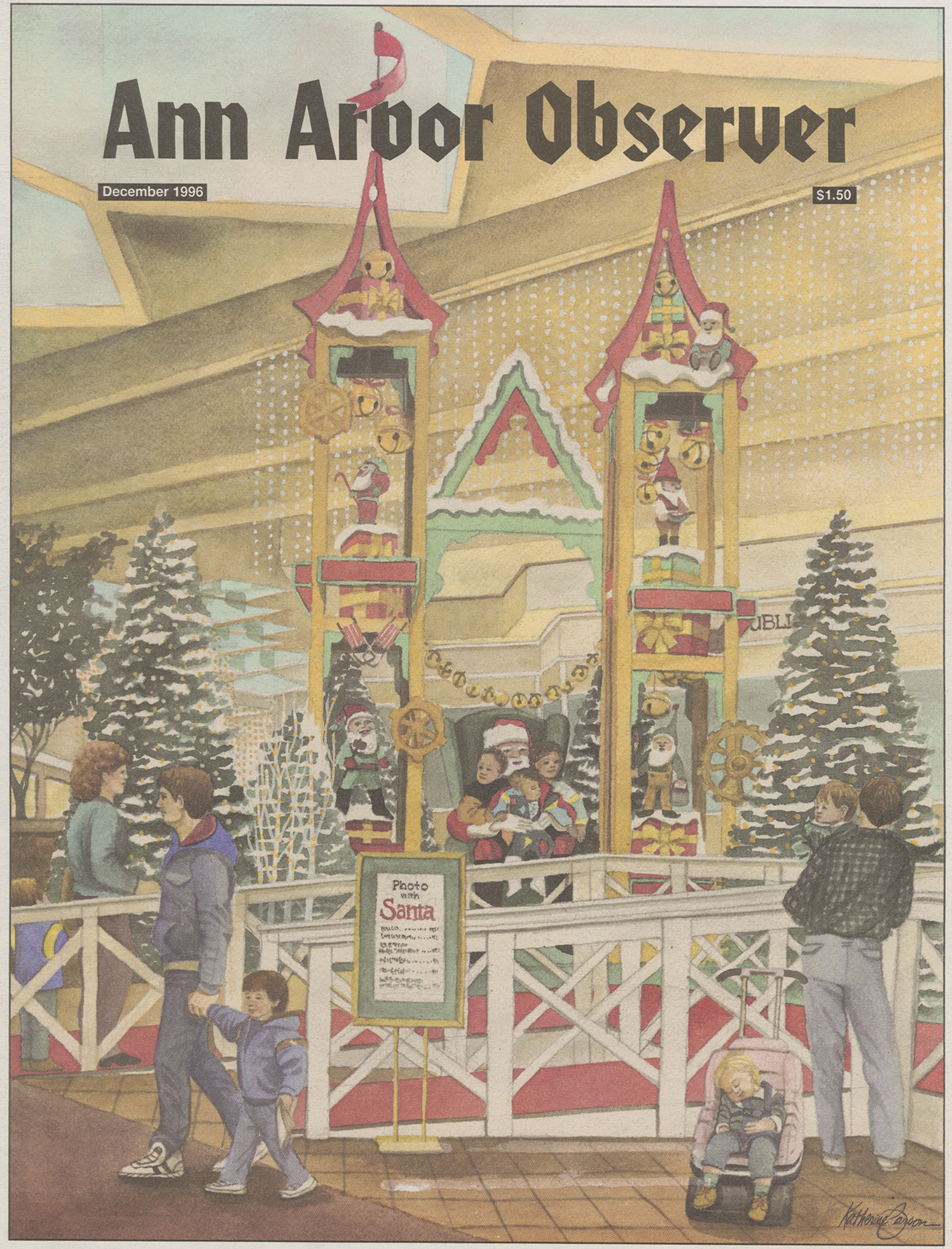

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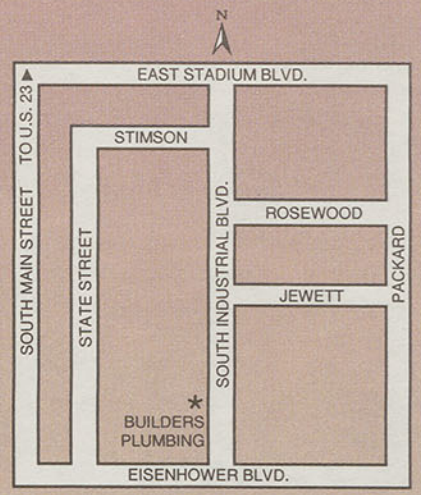

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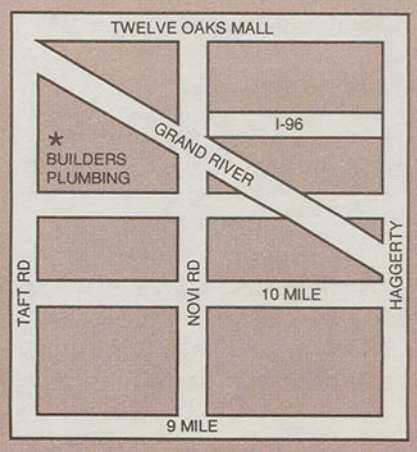

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To step into Jeffrey Michael Powers is to enter a world of unparalleled pampering and sophisticated spa treatments, including seaweed hydrotherapy and aromatherapy massage.

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One quickly gets the impression that customer comfort is paramount, which encourages even the most stressed-out urban dweller to sink into an extended state of bliss.

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Hydrotherapy takes place in a French hydro-tub that features 78 rotating jets and a mixture of detoxifying sea algae. Just say "Ooh, ah, right there, leave it," and the attendant gives you a custom jet-spray bath. You come out feeling great. From there, I received the perfect massage—firm but not too hard—with special attention to the spots where I needed it.

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The pace picked up in regular salon. The super aromatic scalp treatment was invigorating. Of course the haircut and styling was great. And the makeup was just what I asked for—natural looking yet effective.

Jeffrey Michael Powers Beauty Spa offers a sanctuary from this hectic world - a special oasis exclusively devoted to your well being and self-image.

So how did my husband do it? Easy. He just called Jeffrey Michael Powers Beauty Spa in downtown Ann Arbor at (313) 996–5585 and they arranged everything!

Give Her A Day At The Spa

THIS HOLIDAY HAVE HER ESCAPE to a stress-free environment and emerge feeling totally rejuvenated.

Her day begins with a private Finnish steam sauna, shower and morning refreshments. This is followed by a deeply-relaxing Aromatherapy massage. Next, she will soak in our 78 jet hydrotherapy tub and her cares will float away...she will receive a European facial, eyebrow arch and Hawaiian manicure and pedicure. And, of course, she will enjoy an elegantly served luncheon. To complete her ***One Perfect Day***, a revitalizing hair treatment, haircut, styling and makeup application will be created especially for her. Gift certificate for this *One Perfect Day* is $275.

You can also answer her rejuvenation needs with any of our other special packages:

Spa Revitalizer

This package has a relaxing and re-energizing effect on her body and mind. She will begin with our Body Polishing to exfoliate and stimulate her skin. Next, she will experience a custom underwater massage featuring our 78 jet hydrotherapy tub. Her experience will finish with an Aromatherapy massage to relax her nervous system and beautify her skin. Gift certificate for the Spa Revitalizer is $150.00.

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The best gift is feeling the benefits of taking time out to renew your body, mind and spirit. To arrange her Day at the Spa, please call me at (313) 996–5585.

The Perk

She will discover the benefits of deep relaxation. This experience begins with a custom underwater massage featuring our 78 jet hydrotherapy tub followed by a 60-minute Aromatherapy massage. Gift certificate for *The Perk* is $100.00.

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Soothe the stresses of modern life and enhance her self-image with an afternoon of beauty and relaxation. Her experience begins with a Finnish steam sauna followed by a restorative Aromatherapy massage. Next, she will receive a European facial. From there, she will be treated to a Hawaiian manicure and pedicure. She will also be served an elegant luncheon. To complete her *Afternoon Escape*, she will experience a revitalizing hair and scalp treatment, haircut and styling just for her. Gift certificate for this *Afternoon Escape* is $200.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 2PM* & 7PM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 8PM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT 8PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 2PM* & 8PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 2PM* & 7PM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 8PM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 2PM* & 8PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT 2PM* & 8PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 AT 2PM* & 7PM

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Michigan Dried Cherries, Mackinaw Fudge, Butter Pretzels, Michigan Maple Syrup, Carp River Preserves, and Michigan Honey in a baguette-shaped bread basket.

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Carp River Gift Boxes
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From Across Michigan
Pastabilities Pasta, Carp River Preserves, Mucky Duck Mustard, Michigan Honey, Michigan Dried Cherries, Michigan Maple Syrup, Pizzelle Cookies, Michigan Mints, St. Julian Sparkling Juice, Kellogg's Cereal, Jiffy Muffin Mix, in a handled willow basket.

$69.99

Best of Michigan
Mackinaw Fudge, Mackinaw Taffy, Michigan Mints, Mucky Duck Mustard, American Spoon Preserves, Butter Pretzels, St. Julian Sparkling Fruit Juice, Michigan Dried Cherries, Pizzelle Cookies, Sanders Fudge Sauce, and an engraved mug showing both peninsulas in a lovely handled willow basket.

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The Snack Basket
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A Taste of Ann Arbor
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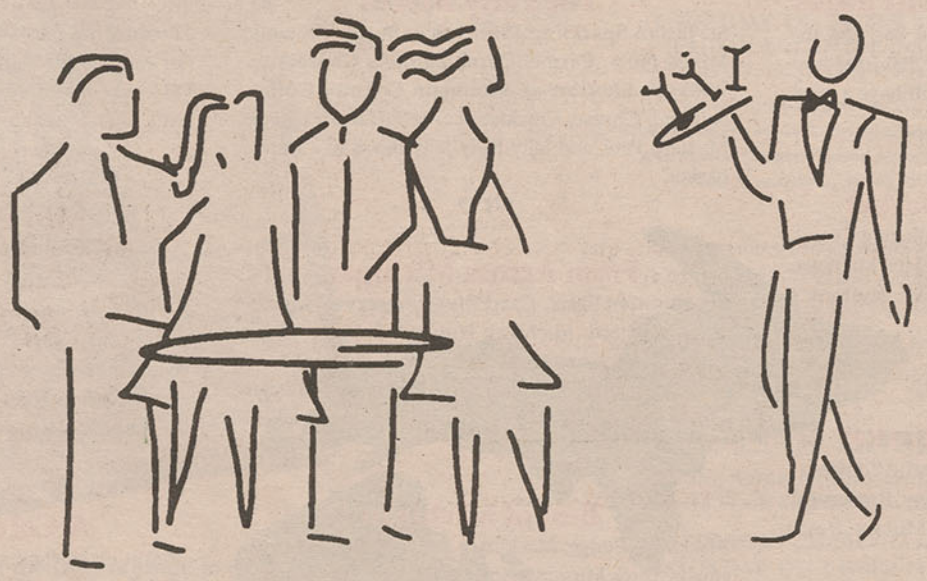

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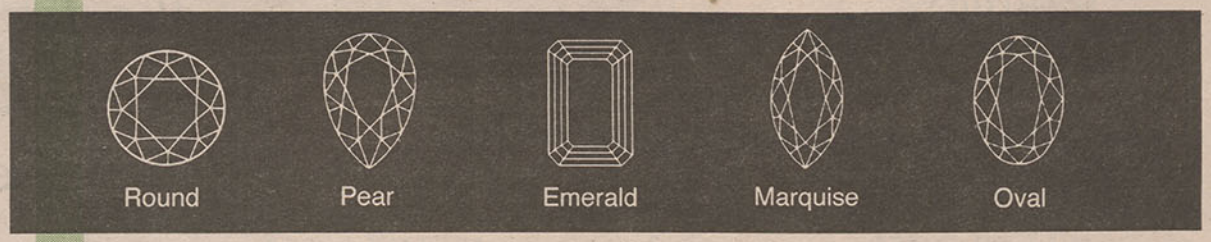

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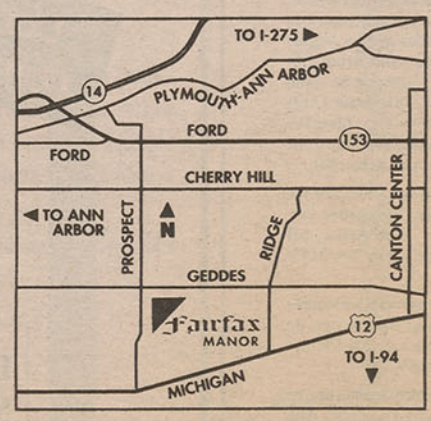

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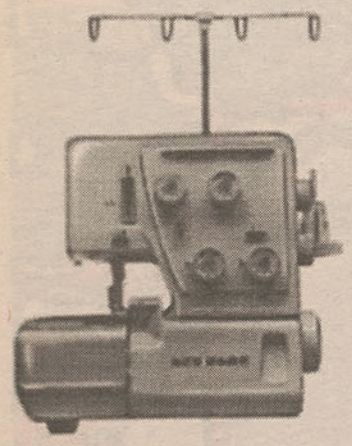

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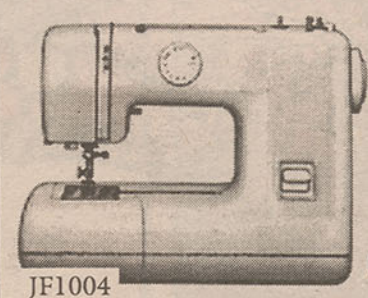

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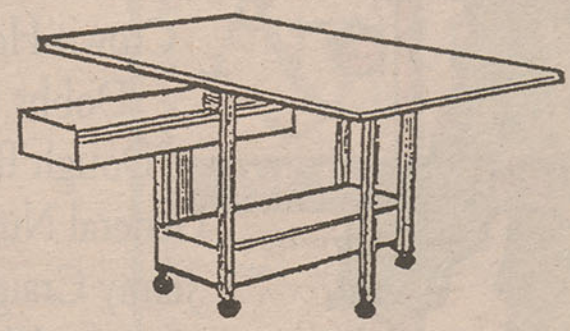

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Ann Arbor Observer

DECEMBER 1996 Vol. 21, No. 4

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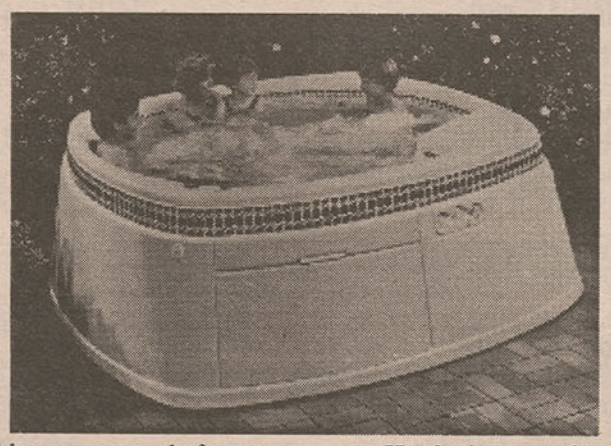

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INSIDE

Winning Hand

Ingrid Sheldon survived a wild card presidential turnout and a strong Democratic challenger to win her third mayoral term.

Democrat Chris Kolb, a popular Fifth Ward councilman, sliced Sheldon's victory margin to just 5 percent—2,400—of a record 47,000 votes. He even managed to win back two normally Democratic wards (the Third and the Fifth) that Sheldon had carried in her first two mayoral victories. But Kolb's candidacy was undone by Sheldon's 4,400 vote plurality in the Republican Second and Fourth wards and by strong appeal to Democratic voters—she got more than twice as many votes in Democratic precincts as Bob Dole.

Sheldon's victory was one of the few bright spots for local Republicans. Second Ward Republican Jane Lumm won a third term, but she is a well-known veteran, with the kind of high-profile fiscal conservatism local Republicans love. The closeness of her race with Democrat Barbara Bach—Lumm won by just 214 out of almost 8,400 votes—suggests Republicans might be vulnerable even in this ward when Lumm retires. And the Republican showings in the Fourth and Fifth wards were nothing short of disastrous. (Democrats were unopposed in the First and Third wards.) Most observers thought Patrick McKeon had a fifty-fifty chance of unseating Democrat Steve Hartwell in the Fourth, but Hartwell won with relative ease, 5,033 to 4,338. In the Fifth, despite an increase in turnout of almost 3,000 voters, Republican Ren Snyder got some 200 *fewer* votes against Elisabeth Daley than Republican Peg Eisenstodt did in 1994.

In a break with past practice, the city clerk's office didn't post vote tallies on election night. That left the candidates and WEMU city hall reporter David Frickman, host of CTN's annual election night broadcast, in the dark about the outcome for hours after the polls closed. Sheldon finally learned of her victory from Republican poll watchers at an election-night party at the Clarion Hotel.

Exit Poll

Ann Arbor voters really are different.

Curious about how the local electorate compared with the rest of the state, writer Lisa Powers took an election-day job conducting an exit poll. She was assigned to the 5–7 and 4–10 precincts at Dicken School.

Powers admits she began with "a certain elevated regard for my fellow citizens. I imagined we are a pocket of rational thinkers, or at least liberal voters, in a state full of Republican conservative extremists."

Predictably, the sixty-two people who consented to complete her survey were unusually well-educated and strongly prochoice. Fully half identified themselves as liberals, and they chose Clinton over Dole by more than two to one. On the other hand, Powers was surprised to find that in her small sample, born-again Christians outnumbered union members by a count of ten to seven.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Ingrid Sheldon outpolled Bob Dole two to one in the city's Democratic precincts.

The touchiest issue was not on the form: several voters became outraged after learning that the media outlets commissioning the survey included the strikebound Detroit News. *Most were mollified when Powers explained that she was donating her fee to the newspaper unions' strike fund.*

Breathing Room

A spectacular surge in Warner-Lambert's stock has greatly lessened the risk of a hostile takeover.

Through November 14, Warner-Lambert stock has skyrocketed 47 percent, outstripping both the Dow Jones and pharmaceutical industry averages (both up around 27 percent). That makes the company much less attractive as a takeover target because a buyer would have to pay a premium price. "A takeover is much less a part of the story right now," says Jim Keeney, pharmaceutical industry analyst for Rodman & Renshaw in Boston. "My suspicions are that Warner thinks now it's more in control of its own destiny." That's a relief for the more than 1,500 employees at the company's Parke-Davis research complex on Plymouth Road, who just a year ago faced the prospect of an imminent merger or takeover ("Parke-Davis in Ann Arbor," October 1995).

The stock has surged mainly on expectations for two highly touted new drugs, the cholesterol-lowering agent atorvastatin and the diabetes drug troglitazone. Warner-Lambert submitted new drug applications for both this summer, and FDA marketing approval is expected next year. "Ultimately we hope each of these drugs will do more than one billion dollars in sales," says Warner-Lambert media relations manager Jeff Baum. Some analysts are more cautious. Keeney estimates $500 million in sales of the two drugs by 1999. But since Warner-Lambert is a relatively small drug company, even that figure would be a huge boost, promising double-digit annual earnings growth into the next century. That should enable Warner-Lambert, if it wishes, to buck the consolidation trend in the drug industry and stay independent.

Success for the new drugs, however, is still far from certain. Atorvastatin is the most potent cholesterol-lowering drug yet developed, and Warner-Lambert and marketing partner Pfizer plan a massive sales blitz. But it may be a tough sell—four other drugs in its class are already entrenched in the market. Troglitazone has been remarkably effective in treating non-insulin dependent diabetes in test populations, but Sankyo, the Japanese company which licensed the drug to Warner-Lambert, has postponed its product launch in Japan because some female mice developed rare vascular tumors while on the drug. No such tumors were seen in rats, and the National Institutes of Health are apparently satisfied the drug is safe, choosing it for a long-term human trial for diabetes prevention.

Despite Warner-Lambert's rising stock price, takeover rumors still abound. In August the *New York Times* reported a possible bid by Swiss drug giant Roche, and in October *Financial World* noted that Proctor & Gamble may be interested in buying Warner-Lambert. Jim Keeney mentions Bayer as a potential buyer, and Schering-Plough is an obvious merger candidate. But Keeney thinks Warner-Lambert is safe for now and predicts it will sit tight to see if the new drugs prove their worth on the market.

And if the new drugs don't sell? "Then it's back to the same old Warner-Lambert," says Keeney. "But we prefer not to think about that." His firm recommends buying the company's stock.

Co-op Closing

The final days are at hand for the People's Food Co-op's Packard Store.

The store will probably remain open through April, when its lease ends and student shoppers desert the neighborhood. But Carol Collins, the co-op's general manager, says falling sales may make it cheaper to close operations earlier and pay rent on the empty storefront.

The twenty-five-year-old Packard store experienced relatively steady sales and growth up until the summer of 1994. Then it was slammed with the double punch of its Fourth Avenue sister store's expansion and the opening of Whole Foods Market on East Stadium. Summer sales figures have traditionally dipped for Packard, but

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INSIDE

GREGORY FOX

Left behind by newer, bigger competitors, the People's Food Co-op's store on Packard will soon close.

that year they dropped a whopping 50 percent.

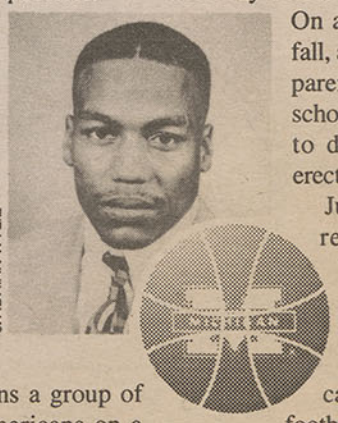
The decision to close was formally made on November 18, but the co-op's staff and board of directors had been pretty sure of the outcome since August, when the board rejected a plan to expand the store. (Projections showed the expansion wouldn't pay off.)

Closing the Packard store carried a lot of emotional weight for some members. One staffer describes the discussions as "a grieving process." But other than staff and board members, only one person attended an October 21 discussion on the closing issue. Two years ago, attendance at a similar meeting was well over a hundred. Collins speculates that many people in the co-op community made an effort to support the Packard store "till they thought it was safe. Then they went back to Fourth Avenue, where they really wanted to shop."

Former Packard manager Jack Laurent will return December 2, on a contract basis, to oversee the store's shutdown. The staff intends to maintain Packard's selection and standards until the end. Then some will migrate to Fourth Avenue and others will pursue opportunities outside the food co-op.

Loyal Packard shoppers and those with nostalgic thoughts should watch for news of a closing ceremony, which Packard staffer Lori Crall says will "honor the space and the growth it made possible."

Hoops Savior?



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Junior-college transfer Brandun Hughes is the sole prize recruit on this year's U-M men's basketball team.

The six-foot Hughes joins a group of former high school All-Americans on a team with as much individual talent as any program in the country. But this incredible roster has yet to show a shadow of consistency, a smidgen of chemistry, or even one solitary win in the NCAA tournament over the past two years. While the Fab Five carried Michigan into the national spotlight in the early 1990's, their successors have allowed the program to become mired in mediocrity.

A great point guard and floor leader could go a long way in curing these ills, and Hughes thinks he fits the bill. "I just want to play and be out on the floor. This team has a lot of great players, and I just want to fit in. But I think I'll end up as the quarterback of the team. I can penetrate the defense and distribute the ball. I can score but I love to pass."

Play-making is Hughes's first love on the court as evidenced by the NBA stars who have served as his role models: Damon Stoudamire, Penny Hardaway, and Jason Kidd. Hughes explains, "I like the great passers more than the great scorers. My job will be to get the ball to my teammates in a position where they can get easy baskets."

Michigan's big men—Maurice Taylor, Maceo Baston, and Robert Traylor—expect to be the beneficiaries of Hughes's abilities. "Brandun adds a little bit of everything," Taylor said after his new teammate helped lead U-M to a double overtime victory in the first exhibition game of the season. "He gives us something extra, a spark we didn't have last year."

"Brandun is incredibly talented and will provide immediate help," coach Steve Fisher agrees. "He is a winner. He's tough, he has a great attitude, and he's a fighter . . . and it's infectious. He makes others better. The players love him and so will the fans."

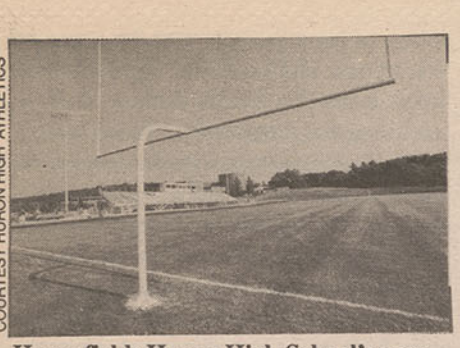
Hughes is Michigan's first significant junior-college recruit since Rickey Green arrived in 1976 and led the Wolverines to the NCAA Final. Two decades later, Hughes is planning to do the same.

Riverbank Stadium

"We're first-class citizens now," says former Huron High School athletic director John Nordlinger. "We've been here almost thirty years, and now we actually have a stadium."

Ever since Huron opened in 1969, the school's football teams have played their "home" games across town at Pioneer's Hollway Field. That has finally changed. On a crisp, moonlit night this fall, a couple thousand students, parents, alumni, teachers, and school administrators gathered to dedicate Huron's newly erected Riverbank Stadium.

Just about everybody had a reason to be happy. Pam Wood, daughter of Bob Ufer, the legendary U-M football announcer, and her husband, Bill, who captained Ann Arbor High's football team in 1964, were delighted that their JV football playing son was among the first generation of River



COURTESY HURON HIGH ATHLETICS

Home field: Huron High School's new Riverbank Stadium.

Rats who honestly could call their field "home."

Near the gate entrance, a gathering of boosters were happy because they finally had a decent-sized table from which to sell Huron sweatshirts, T-shirts, and hats. Members of the band, parked in the stands on the north end of the field, were happy because they were finally marching on a familiar field with familiar markings, which helped them stay in formation. Band director Stephen Roberts was perhaps more relieved than happy because he didn't have to worry nearly as much about one of his drum majors getting into a car accident during the rush to drive across town.

And finally, the football players were happy. Unlike the visitors' locker room they frequently occupied during games at Hollway Field, their new digs were painted in their own colors—green and gold—and there was more than one bathroom, which meant players didn't have to waste valuable minutes during halftime waiting in line. "It's just a completely different atmosphere," said Huron coach Paul Verska. "It's our home."

The dedication game against Dearborn Heights Robichaud went into overtime. Finally, Huron kicked a field goal to beat the visitors 9–6, and players in green and gold jerseys stormed the field.

Web Grab

The *Ann Arbor News* wants its freelance writers to give up ownership of their work.

The *News* recently mailed its freelancers a contract requiring them to give the paper "all rights, including copyright . . . throughout the universe" when their articles appear in the newspaper. A cover letter warned "Payment for any assignment cannot be made unless this agreement is signed and returned."

Newspapers around the country are pushing similar "work-for-hire" contracts in a bid to control the potentially lucrative cyberspace market. Ordinarily, freelancers sell only the right to publish an article once. If a paper wants to reuse an article—for instance, by publishing it electronically on the World Wide Web—it must pay for that separately.

The National Writers' Union is fighting work-for-hire contracts. By law, copyright belongs to the author unless the work was done by an employee within the scope of job duties or was specially ordered or commissioned. "Since in a work-for-hire agreement you are forfeiting your copyright," the union warns, "be careful about entering such agreements." The union's opposition helped thwart an attempt by the *New York Times* to impose a work-for-hire agreement last year.

Laura McReynolds, the *News*'s freelance restaurant reviewer, says the letter and contract "came out of the blue" without any apparent precipitating cause. "It's not a very standard agreement," McReynolds notes. "I think everybody was pretty surprised by it."

The *News* refuses to discuss why it wants the copyrights. "That's an internal issue in terms of how we operate, and I really don't think it's appropriate for us to comment on it," says publisher Dave Wierman. But Newhouse, corporate parent of the *News*, is busily developing an Internet Web site that will draw on material published in the chain's Michigan papers.

The contract also requires freelancers to give the paper "right of first refusal" for all story ideas. Contributors who sign the contract won't be able to sell their work to any publication or Web site in a five-county area unless the *News* first agrees not to take the article.

It remains to be seen how many Ann Arbor News *freelancers will comply. "At this point, I'm waiting and seeing, and I think most others are," says McReynolds. "I don't think anybody's in a rush to sign away all these rights."*

A Wing and a Prayer

Clonlara School gets a new building.

The pioneering alternative school, which also provides home-schooling support to some 2,000 families around the world, was housed for years in a couple of ramshackle 1930's frame houses on Jewett Avenue. Last summer, Clonlara received permission from the city planning commission to replace the houses with a 17,500-square-foot classroom building and a twenty-two-space parking lot. Never one to take the safe route, founder Pat Montgomery razed one of the old buildings this fall, even before her bank loan for the new school was approved.

Montgomery, a former nun who started Clonlara with just eight students in 1967, is used to taking leaps of faith. "I buried a medal each of Saint Jude and Saint Theresa," she explained in early November. "That's why we're getting a building.

"The [original] building is down, and there's a big Caterpillar sitting out here. So it's a go, even if it's not a go. Though God knows where we'll get two million dollars if the bank *doesn't* approve it."

A few days later, the loan was approved. "We're now a fully owned subsidiary of Comerica bank," Montgomery reported cheerfully. "Literally. They took out a life insurance policy on me."

Clonlara plans to lay the cornerstone for the new building on December 2. It will be dedicated to Montgomery's sister, Kitty Wallace, a community volunteer and Clonlara's business manager until her death in 1991.

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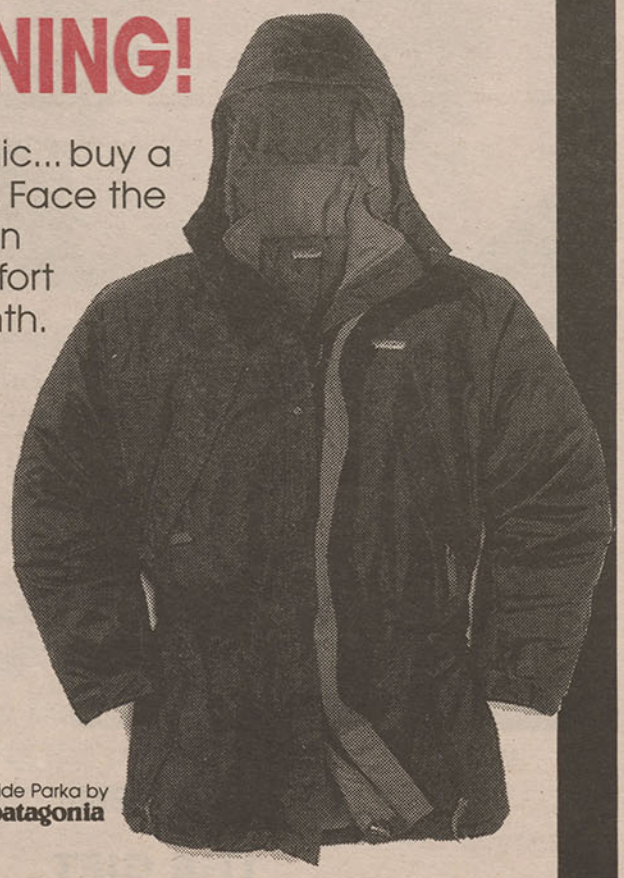

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INSIDE

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Rennie Richards and other volunteers from the Ann Arbor Cat Clinic provide food and medical care for local stray cats.

Wild Cats

A few dedicated veterinary professionals are trying to stem the feral cat population.

For several years, the Ann Arbor Cat Clinic on Packard has quietly run an adoption program for homeless cats, placing them with volunteers until permanent homes can be found. Now they have a new, herculean mission—rescuing and spaying feral cats.

It all started, says technician Rennie Richards, when a client told her about a colony of homeless cats near the corner of Washtenaw and Golfside. Richards and fellow technician Kristin Binkowski drove out to see for themselves. "When we got there, we found three kittens sleeping on top of a dead kitten, and a lot of adults," she says. "What they've done is dug tunnels underground, so they have shelter. There's like twenty tunnels there. But they're very hungry. One of them that got away from us, he was staggering. He probably died."

Richards and Binkowski retrieved the kittens and have made return trips to live-trap as many cats as possible. The kittens are kept and socialized so they can be adopted. Most of the adults are too wild to domesticate; they are spayed or neutered and vaccinated, then released in the same place they were found. "It's cruel to release them in an area they don't know," Richards explains.

But as the clinic has discovered, the colony at Washtenaw is only the tip of the iceberg. Over the past months, they've had more reports of wild cats living around town and on the U-M campus. "I would imagine anywhere there's a Dumpster you'll find them," says Richards.

Richards has seen wild cats with frostbitten ears that fell off, a cat shot through the neck but still alive, and a kitten with only stumps for back legs. But there are also success stories like Cheddar, a big orange cat who was rescued from a group of kids who were kicking and beating him. "He was wild, just terrified of people," she says. "We didn't know if we'd ever be able to find a home for him. Then one day a staff person was sitting by his cage, and he went *purrrr.* He turned out to be wonderful, the most loving, affectionate cat!"

The rescuers hunt the wild cats on their lunch hour or after work. Even veterinarian Kristine Kaufeld, co-owner of the clinic, has volunteered to spend hours sitting in the woods watching live traps. The spaying and neutering are done at night after the clinic has closed. "People say, 'Why bother?'" says Richards. "But you can't not do it."

FAKE AD

Of all the clever cards and letters we received that identified last month's Fake Ad for Turkee® Brand turkey substitute (p. 60), the one from Joy Ochs was the most insightful of all.

"Yuck!" wrote Joy. Well said.

But there were also a lot of Observer readers who were intrigued by the idea of a meatless bird for Thanksgiving. The People's Food Co-op was reportedly besieged by a gaggle of hungry vegans who hoped the ad was real. Venture capitalists, take note: the market for textured vegetable protein appears to be as elastic as the product itself.

Ann Mulhern is our winner. "So Ann Arbor!" she said of the ad. We're sure that's a compliment. She's taking her gift certificate to Cousins Heritage Inn.

To enter this month's Fake Ad contest, find the fake, and identify it by name and page number. Drop a card to Fake Ad, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor 48104. You can also fax us at (313) 769–3375, or drop off your entry at our office. (No phone calls, please.) Include a phone number where we can reach you if you win. Remember, the Fake Ad always includes the number 741–4141 in some sneaky form or another. All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Wednesday, December 11, are eligible for the drawing. The winner receives a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

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Nicotine City?

Ann Arbor is the unlikely locale for TV ads promoting a nicotine patch.

The ads feature folks who've recently quit smoking with the help of Nicotrol patches. Intriguingly, the testimonials all come from residents of Ann Arbor, which hardly fits the image of a two-pack-a-day, beer-and-a-bump kind of town. Why not Asheville or Winston-Salem? Why Ann Arbor?

"It just felt right," says Ron Schmid, vice-president for marketing at McNeil, the patch's marketer. "We wanted to find out what it was like to quit smoking, with smokers talking to smokers, real live people. We were looking for the right demographic mix: variety of ages, races, industry. Sometimes a place just has the right kind of feel."

That feel led a film crew to visit last summer to track down a number of local residents who had expressed the desire to quit. The referrals were both creative and convoluted. A construction worker, approached by the film crew, sent them to a friend, a waitress who works at a diner. Another man told them he didn't know of anyone, but when he mentioned the query to his wife, she reminded him of their neighbor, Carol Bokas. "We were told it was for a documentary film. I doubt they'd have gotten us to be as open or as frank if we knew it'd be a commercial," Bokas says.

"It's not for 'recreational smokers'—the ones who smoke only ten cigarettes a day," Bokas declares. The forty-five year old had been smoking three to four packs a day for twenty years. "Basically, I didn't smoke while I was showering or sleeping," Bokas says. She found that the patch does work. "The first week was the worst. Now it's okay—except when I have to think or talk about smoking. The hardest thing was my smoking habits. I used to come downstairs in the morning, make coffee, and smoke two cigarettes while it perked. Now I don't come downstairs until I've showered."

In addition to the health benefits, Bokas has another goal: She's planning to buy a new sofa with the money she's saving by not buying cigarettes—some $40 a week.

Candy Murders

At sixty-two, businessman Jerry Prescott wrote his first mystery—and it immediately became an Ann Arbor best-seller.

Prescott's *Deadly Sweet in Ann Arbor* sold out its first printing of 3,000 copies just two weeks after publication. The mystery tracks a murderer who leaves a candy trail in his fiendish wake—a Pay Day bar in the pocket of the pretty female corpse in the Arb, a Zero bar left, with a taunting message, on the sidewalk in front of Sweet Lorraine's restaurant.

"The basic advice [for writers] is to write about something you know about," says Prescott. "I've been in Ann Arbor virtually all my life. I know the candy business." He's the president of DEBS, a local

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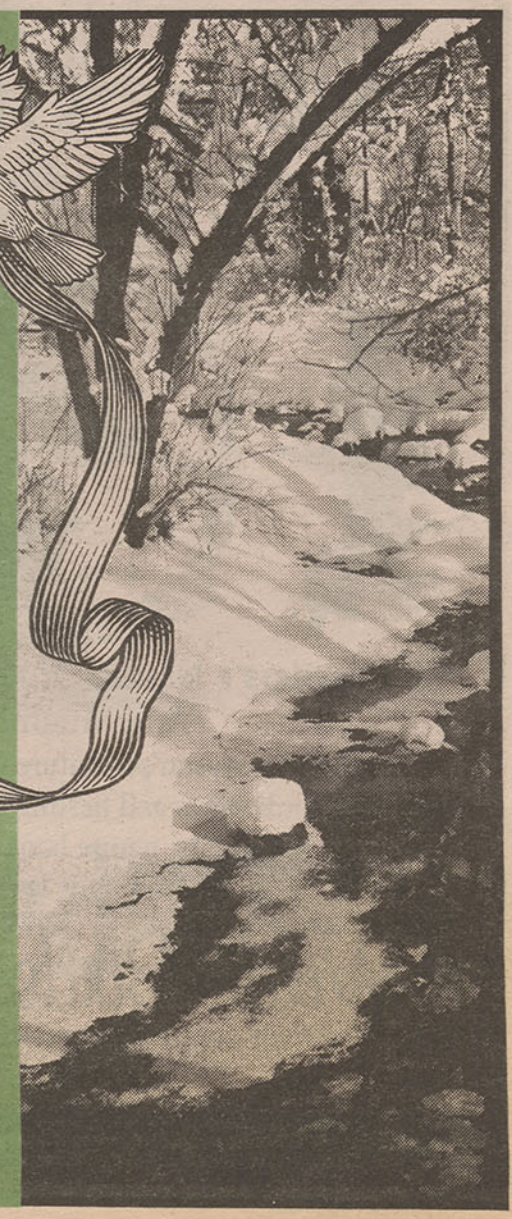

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Now thru December 24th, Homestead is having its last storewide sale of the year.

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Marlow Glider Rockers from $349
Solid Oak China Cabinets from $249
Children's Solid Oak Rockers $99

Homestead's Oak Collection on Sale
Dining Sets, Hutches, Occasional Tables, etc.

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Oak Shelves, Indoor Fountains, Pictures, Frames, Lamps, Mirrors & more

EVERYTHING IS ON SALE!!!
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The Last Storewide Sale of the Year!

Homestead
FURNITURE & GALLERY, LTD.

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Across from Meijer
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(313) 913-0343

company which started out as a wholesale candy and tobacco distributor and now sells computer software to distributors.

Like his mystery-writing predecessor, Susan Holtzer, Prescott discovered that Ann Arborites love to see familiar settings cast in sinister shadows. The only problem is remaining topical. "Things get dated so fast," he says. "I have one scene where the villain pursued by the police charges into the Michigan League for dinner. So that scene couldn't take place today." (The League recently stopped serving dinner.)

The book includes artist Milt Kemnitz's serene drawings of Hill Auditorium, Nickels Arcade, City Hall, and many other familiar places. The second printing will include a quote by police chief Carl Ent: "I'm glad this is fiction." ■

Calls & Letters

Election corrections

In November's county election story, we wrote that former treasurer Nancy Davis "resigned amid accusations of mismanagement and illegal investments." Although the charges of mismanagement were widespread at the time Davis stepped down, the accusation of illegal investments was made more recently. In a pre-election interview, current treasurer Larry Gass asserted that Davis invested county funds directly in the stock market in violation of the law. Neither Gass nor anyone else claimed that Davis misused funds for personal profit, and no charges were ever filed against her. Gass lost his bid for reelection to Democrat Catherine McClary.

Also, our city election story inadvertently added a year to the age of Second Ward Democratic council candidate Barbara Bach, who is sixty-one (not sixty-two). This was Bach's third unsuccessful campaign in four years, and though running for council is an exhausting task, it is not known to speed up the aging process.

Marketplace Changes

In an August announcement of a new T J Maxx store at Carpenter Plaza, the Marketplace Changes column reported the size of the company's existing store in Westgate as 27,000 square feet. That number, provided by T J Maxx's corporate office, was outdated. Westgate owner Don Van Curler called to say that a series of expansions has brought the store in his center to 35,000 square feet—substantially bigger than the approximately 26,000-square-foot Carpenter Plaza store.

The November Marketplace Changes column erred in describing Age of Aquarium's closing. We wrote that the Packard Road store "had to close earlier this year when rent increases forced it into bankruptcy." The owner of the building called to point out that Age of Aquarium was in the middle of a five-year lease, and its rent had not increased since April 1993. The store filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy (reorganization) in November 1995, shifted to Chapter 7 (liquidation) in January, and was evicted in May owing almost $40,000 in rent.

The November column also listed the Fannie May candy shop at Briarwood as a five-year survivor. Several alert readers told us that was incorrect. The mall's information service confirmed it—Fannie May Candies closed last February. This changes the November 1991 survival rate from 80 percent to 73 percent. And finally, the month's five-year follow-up reported that "University Java, a coffee cart that rolled out each morning at the corner of South University and East University, moved out West with its young owners." One of those young owners called to say that only the cart went west, and only by a little—a new owner takes it to the monthly Ann Arbor Antiques Market at the Saline Fairgrounds. U Java's original owners, Judy and Steve Burns, went to Costa Rica for a few years, then returned to Ann Arbor.

Pressler's debut

In his November Event Review of pianist Menahem Pressler, Jim Leonard mistakenly wrote that Pressler had made "several" earlier solo performances at the Kerrytown Concert House. In fact, Pressler's two November concerts at KCH were his first solo concerts in Ann Arbor.

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Come in soon; avoid the holiday rush. We have all kinds of acoustic pianos for your consideration — grands, uprights and consoles — from leading manufacturers such as Yamaha, Weber and Rieger-Klöss. Last, but not least, all pianos are sale priced.

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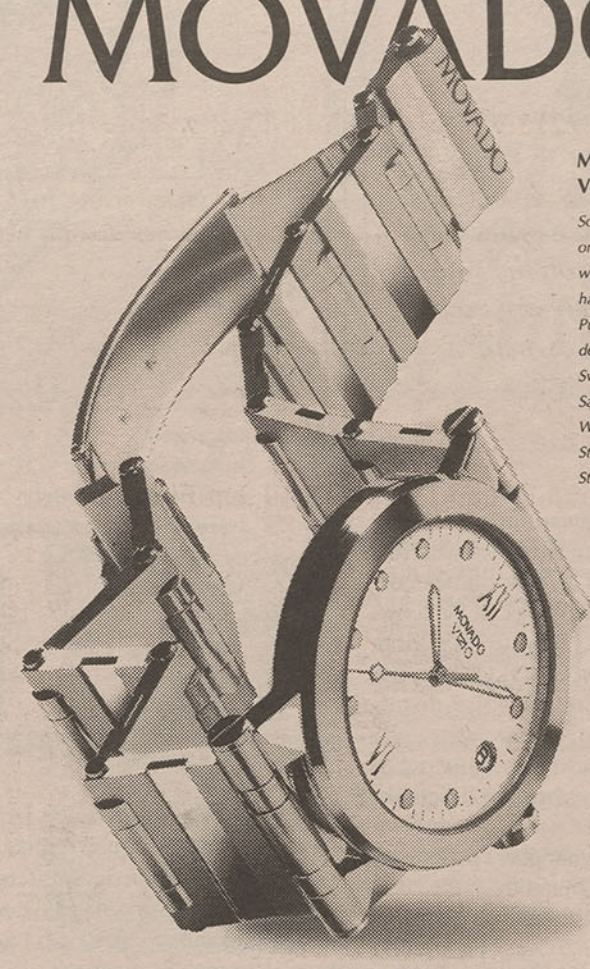

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Bad dogs

Handling the canine offender

Roy has run away five times. Max and his friends carry on all night, often waking the neighborhood. Sparky has a mean temper and snaps at anyone who comes near him.

Roy, Max, and Sparky (not their real names) are bad dogs—canine repeat offenders whose misbehavior puts their owners in direct violation of city code chapter 107, the section dealing with animal control.

Were these boys born bad, or did something make them that way? In the argument of nature vs. nurture, Huron Valley Humane Society shelter supervisor Karen Kosin comes down squarely on the side of the latter. "There are no bad dogs, only bad owners," says Kosin. "Even pit bulls, who have a really bad rep, can be very sweet dogs if they aren't trained to fight."

In the argument of nature vs. nurture, Huron Valley Humane Society shelter supervisor Karen Kosin comes down squarely on the side of the latter. "There are no bad dogs, only bad owners," says Kosin.

Of course, the question is probably moot to the many Ann Arborites who find their sleep disrupted or their gardens destroyed by high-spirited dogs on the loose. "It's a real problem," admits Ann Arbor animal control officer Cheryl Christopher. "I get lots of calls about noise disturbances and animals at large, especially during the warm weather months when people's windows are open and pets are outside more."

According to Christopher, people are more reticent about calling the police on a barking problem than they are about reporting a dog on the loose. "People live with the barking, even if it's driving them crazy, because they don't want a confrontation with their neighbors," says Christopher. "But in most cases, I find that the owners are willing to work it out."

Christopher's suggestions to owners of noisy dogs include behavioral training with an expert, limiting the amount of time the dog is outside, muzzling for short periods, and using "bark collars," noise-activated dog collars that issue a high-pitched tone or small electrical shock to deter barking.

Christopher has the authority to impound a dog whose owner is in violation of the city's noise ordinance, but she says she considers that a last resort. A dog on the loose, however, is a different story. "Sometimes a dog will get scared when he sees me and run home. So I just follow to make sure he gets there and to talk with the owner," explains Christopher. "But if I can't determine who he belongs to, or the owners aren't around, I have to take him in."

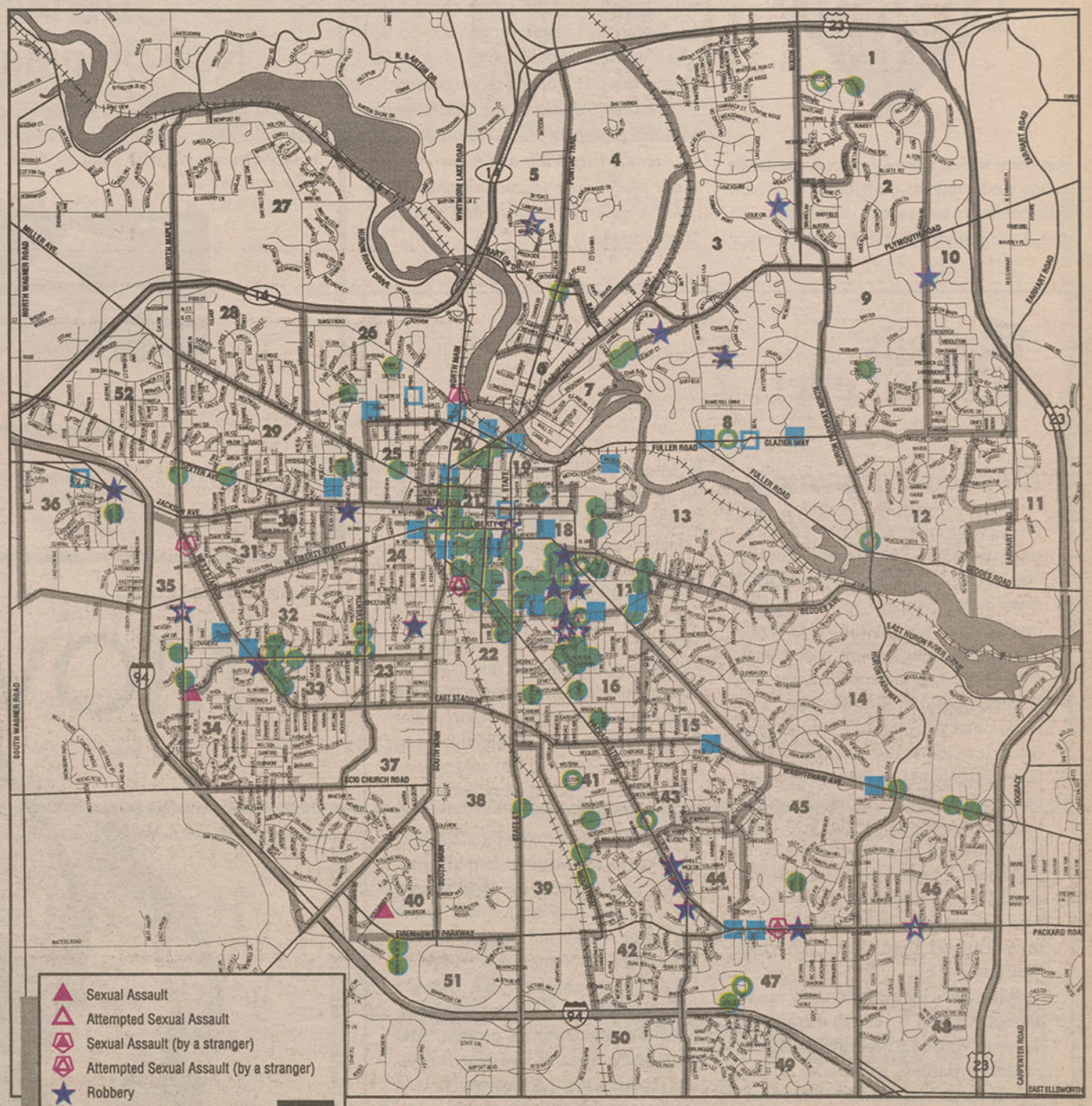
Jail, for dogs, is the Humane Society, where shelter staff check the animals for tags or microchip implants that might identify the owner, give them any necessary shots, and worm them. To spring Fido, the owner must pay a city fine (which theoretically can run as much as $500) and a $20 release fee. The Humane Society's boarding bill is extra—$20 for the first day and $10 for each additional day.

Dogs are kept up to five days if they're wearing a collar and up to eight days without a collar before being put up for adoption. "Contrary to what people may think, we keep animals for as long as they stay healthy and as long as we have the space," says shelter supervisor Kosin. Depending on how crowded the shelter is, that can be anywhere from a couple of weeks to a couple of months. "They get dry and wet food, they get taken for walks, they get treats, and they get a lot of T.L.C. They're really well taken care of."

While Kosin might not believe in bad dogs, she does concede that some species are more likely to be repeat offenders than others. "Hound dogs and beagles are hunting dogs," says Kosin. "And when they catch a scent, they just run with it. There are dogs we see in here over and over again—we know them by name. A lot of times, they come in with another dog. We call them 'running mates.'"

What species is least likely to turn you into an unwilling accomplice in crime? "The best-behaved dogs are the mutts," says Kosin. "No question about it."

—Maggie Dunne



OCTOBER CRIME TOTALS
(including attempts)

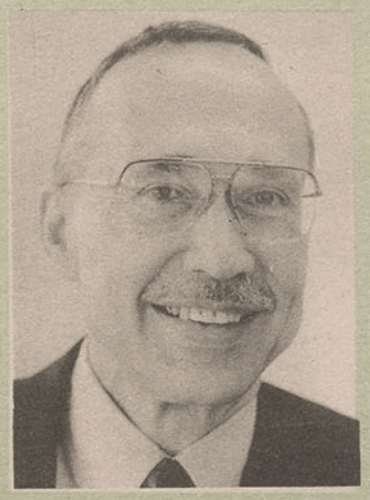
	1996	1995
Burglaries	88	81
Sexual Assaults	6	13
Vehicle Thefts	26	28
Robberies	23	9

These are the major crimes and attempted crimes reported in the City of Ann Arbor and on the University of Michigan campus during October. The symbols indicate the location within one block of all homicides, burglaries, vehicle thefts, sexual assaults, and robberies.

Numbers on the map identify neighborhoods. If you have information about a crime, call Neighborhood Watch at 994–8775 (Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–4 p.m.) or the anonymous 24-hour tip line at 996–3199.

FOR THE PEOPLE
The Ann Arbor City Government Newsletter
Winter 1996 Volume 6 Number 4

News From City Hall



A big thank you from all of us at city hall for your overwhelming support of the Street Reconstruction Millage renewal on November 5. The 2 mills that you approved allow the city to continue to improve your streets on a regular basis. In the coming year, the city will be undertaking the reconstruction of Huron Parkway from Washtenaw to Platt, the rehabilitation of the Huron Parkway Bridges, the reconstruction of Wall Street and improvements to a number of intersections including Huron Parkway/Geddes/Fuller and Eisenhower Parkway/Ann Arbor-Saline Road.

In addition to the major road improvements, the street millage funds the Annual Street Resurfacing Program, which includes local and collector neighborhood streets. Each year the city resurfaces 40-50 neighborhood streets. With the help of the Street Advisory Committee, staff evaluates the condition of neighborhood streets and makes plans for improvements. We know that the quality of the roads that you drive on is one of the more obvious indicators of how well we are serving you. Funds from the millage will allow us to continue to make them better.

This holiday season, there is a pressing need for a dose of community goodwill. The Shelter Association is facing a significant financial shortfall. As the weather gets colder, more of Ann Arbor's less fortunate will have no where to turn for help but the shelter. It is expected that the shelter will be unable to serve all of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County's homeless. Representatives of the city, county, United Way and other organizations are trying to help the shelter work through its financial problems but the needs are expected to be greater than the funds available. In addition to financial assistance, the shelter is very appreciative of any donations of personal care products, cleaning supplies and first aid supplies. If you can help please send a contribution to the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, P.O. Box 7370 Ann Arbor, MI 48107.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

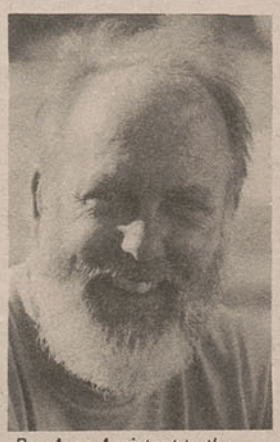
Neal G. Berlin, City Administrator

Environmental Update

COMPOSTING GURU IN ANN ARBOR

The yard waste that you left at the curb all summer and the leaves that you swept into the street for collection in the fall are composted by the city and turned into compost. This "black gold," as it's called, is valued by gardeners who use it to amend their garden soil. During the growing season, the demand is so great for the compost that there isn't enough to go around! Ann Arbor's compost program is one of the most respected in the country.

The man in charge of the composting program is Ray Ayer, Assistant to John Newman, the Solid Waste Director for the City of Ann Arbor. He manages the city's yard waste composting and hazardous waste programs, oversees contracts and assists the director in the research and development of new programs to increase departmental efficiencies. In October of this year, Ayer was honored at the Michigan Recycling Coalition (MRC) annual conference with the first ever MRC Recognition of Professional Achievement Award. Ayer was lauded as the "mentor of Michigan's yard waste composting industry."



Ray Ayer, Assistant to the Solid Waste Director

Ann Arbor's yard waste program collects and composts 20% of the city's waste stream. The program weathered the early trials of odors, plastic bags, and poor site conditions but has been transformed into a showcase operation with an engineered operating surface, modern equipment and collection and operating procedures that prevent nuisance odors. In addition to running a very successful composting operation, Ayer is a tireless teacher. He shares the lessons that he has learned from the city's composting facility with other cities at workshops, seminars and conferences.

Ray credits the success of "our" program to John Newman, who in 1988 (when the landfill was king) had the foresight to examine composting as part of an integrated approach to waste management. Newman set strong requirements for professional yet frugal programs. Ayer says, "The field staff of Dave, Zeke, Dan, Norm, Aldo, Hank and others are the unsung heros. They are the ones outside working in 15 degree weather with 20 mph winds tearing at them. They take pride in what they produce and that is the real reason for our success."

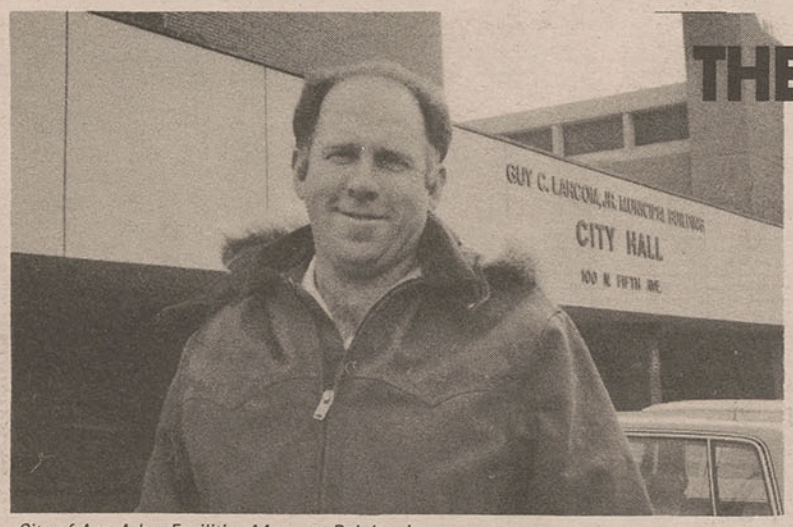
If you are planning to supplement your garden soil next spring, you can pick up a bushel or a truck load of city compost at the Drop-Off Station located at 2950 Ellsworth Road. But you'd better get there early. The staff's work is so good that the end product of your yard waste and fall leaves is a hot commodity!

". . .government of the people, by the people, for the people . . ."

PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

Employee Spotlight

THE BOB VILA of CITY HALL



City of Ann Arbor Facilities Manager Bob Lewis.

When asked if they know who Bob Lewis is, there are very few people in city hall who wouldn't be able to say yes. Very friendly and outgoing, Bob is well known and popular throughout the Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Municipal Building, which serves as his second home. As the Facilities Manager of all city-owned properties, he spends many hours taking care of the buildings' ongoing needs, a job which requires being on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Hired by the city in 1979, Bob's first job was with the Community Development Department, where he worked for five months before switching to the Central Services/Purchasing Department (now known as Administrative Services). He reports directly to the director of Administrative Services, James Amin, and supervises a crew of four other employees. Always wearing a beeper, Bob and his staff oversee the operation of all building systems and are responsible for moving employees whenever a work relocation is required. The last six years have been extremely busy, he says, and have brought about many changes. In addition to relocating approximately four hundred employees, he and his crew replaced the air conditioning system in city hall, which was 30+ years old, resulting in a considerable drop in energy costs. What he is most proud of, however, is the building's new energy management system for lighting, heating and cooling, which he can control by laptop computer from his home. "I won't have to worry about being called down to city hall at 3:00am anymore," he says, and potential problems can be avoided by the system's pre-alarm warnings. "When you're responsible for everything from the curb to the gravel on the rooftops, it really helps to have it all on computer."

Bob is a lifelong resident of Ann Arbor. After graduating from Pioneer High School in 1975, he attended Washtenaw Community College for one year, and transferred to Ferris State University, where he obtained an associate degree in construction technology in '78. "I've always liked to build," he says. The next year he married the former Shelley Ware, and they are the proud parents of three children: Rob (15), Danielle (8), and Ryan (7). The family moved into a new home in Saline earlier this year.

Occasionally, Bob does get to take a break from his work at city hall and, when so, loves to go camping, hunting and fishing. He also helps out with the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts in Ann Arbor and Saline.

"I guess I'm one of those people persons," he says. "I'm lucky to have a good crew at work and my job goes smoother because of their help."

It's universally known at city hall that Bob Lewis is terrific. Great job, Bob!

-Winifred Northcross, City Clerk

Good News

CITY DEPARTMENTS HONORED

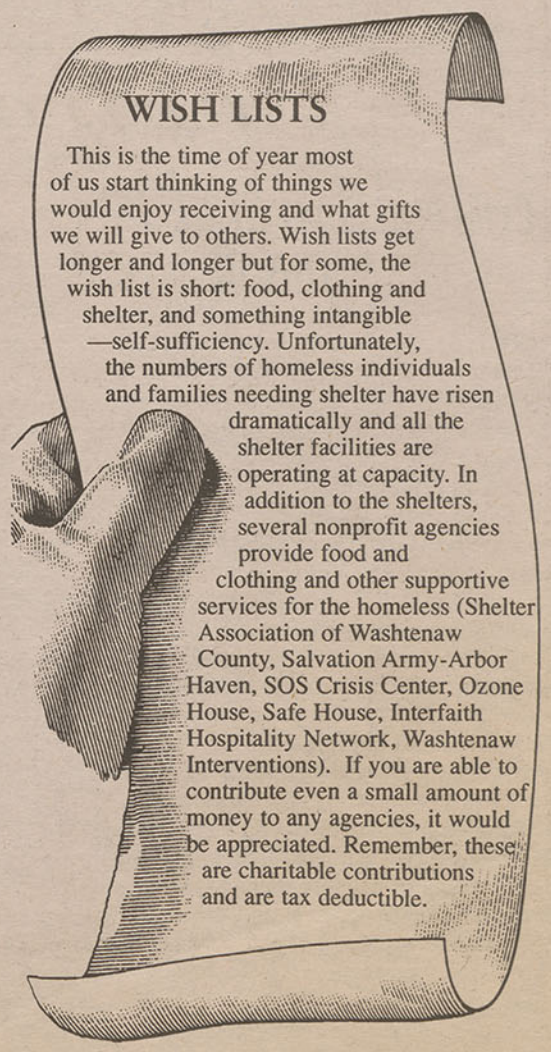
The City of Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Department recently won First Place for its Corporate Challenge Canoe Race in the 1996 Michigan Municipal Achievement Awards Competition. The Corporate Challenge provides funding for recreation scholarships while linking city government to the business community. The City of Ann Arbor Community Development Department's Guidelines for Nonprofit Agencies received an honorable mention in the same competition.

FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDED GRANT

The International Association of Arson Investigators Education Foundation has awarded the Fire Department a grant for educational supplies. The grant will be used to purchase a television/vcr, which will assist fire investigators in their training. Additionally, the investigators will be able to train firefighters to recognize arson while combatting fires. "The cost of arson fires in this country is huge - the loss of property is over a billion dollars a year, and innocent people are often the victims," said Fire Inspector Kevin Scarbrough. "Education is the key to solving these crimes."

"The department hopes to expand their arson detection capabilities with this grant," said Scarbrough, "and take the program to the public to promote greater awareness of the dangers involved in the crime of arson."

In addition, the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority recently donated one of its vehicles to the Fire Department. The inside of the bus will be converted into a safety training exhibit for the department's fire prevention education program. The bus will travel to schools where students will walk through and spot fire hazards like frayed wires and poorly placed electrical cords. The bus has been named Fire Safety Sammy and Scarbrough is excited about this unique opportunity to teach children about fire safety. Watch for the red and white bus with smiling children painted on the outside around town beginning early next year.


WISH LISTS
This is the time of year most of us start thinking of things we would enjoy receiving and what gifts we will give to others. Wish lists get longer and longer but for some, the wish list is short: food, clothing and shelter, and something intangible —self-sufficiency. Unfortunately, the numbers of homeless individuals and families needing shelter have risen dramatically and all the shelter facilities are operating at capacity. In addition to the shelters, several nonprofit agencies provide food and clothing and other supportive services for the homeless (Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, Salvation Army-Arbor Haven, SOS Crisis Center, Ozone House, Safe House, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Washtenaw Interventions). If you are able to contribute even a small amount of money to any agencies, it would be appreciated. Remember, these are charitable contributions and are tax deductible.

PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor

Light Snow: Street Cleaning

When there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, 75 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves in the city are cleared by the city's transportation division. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high–risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, city crews de-ice the local streets in the city, which requires ten to twelve hours.

Heavy Snow: Street Plowing

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins. At this point a number of city departments become involved, supplementing the transportation division's equipment and operators to handle the situation. While the transportation division crews clear the major streets, parks and recreation and utilities division crews begin working on the residential streets. Plowing is done on all public streets and city-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

Snow Desk 994–2359

A city snow desk is staffed throughout each plowing period and during a snow emergency. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the city and provides information to the public about the plowing progress.

Snow Emergency

The City Administrator may declare a "snow emergency" during a severe winter storm. During a snow emergency, special parking restrictions go into effect for all streets in the city. Illegally parked cars will be towed and impounded.

Where street parking is normally permitted, restrictions go into effect to allow curbside access to city crews to clear the street surfaces:

- **On even-numbered days, cars may not park on the even-numbered sides of these streets** in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses. After the street has been plowed, normal parking may be resumed on both sides of the street.

- **On odd-numbered days, cars may not park on the odd-numbered sides of these streets** in order to allow plows to clear the odd-numbered sides of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses. After the street has been plowed, normal parking may be resumed on both sides of the street.

- **Designated snow emergency routes must be kept clear of parked cars at all times during the snow emergency.**

Public Sidewalk Snow Removal

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the city depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width of the public sidewalk. This enables people of all ages and physical condition to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. The City Council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to $500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks. The city reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am shall be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such sidewalk it shall be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Ice should be removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property shall remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting. Ice shall be treated and removed as mentioned above. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

NEW! OPENS DEC. 4

The City of Ann Arbor's

DROP-OFF STATION

New Location! Expanded Hours! Expanded Items! Easier to Use!

2950 East Ellsworth Rd.
Open Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
and Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
(April to Oct. open weekdays to 7 p.m.)
662-6288 ext. 4

The new Drop-Off Station combines and replaces two separate Drop-Off Stations formerly located at 2050 South Industrial and 4120 Platt Rd. The combined Drop-Off Station takes more kinds of materials at one easy-to-use (and more efficient) location, offering longer hours of business to better serve the public. This location is operated for the City by Recycle Ann Arbor. For 24-hour information, call 99-GREEN (994-7336).

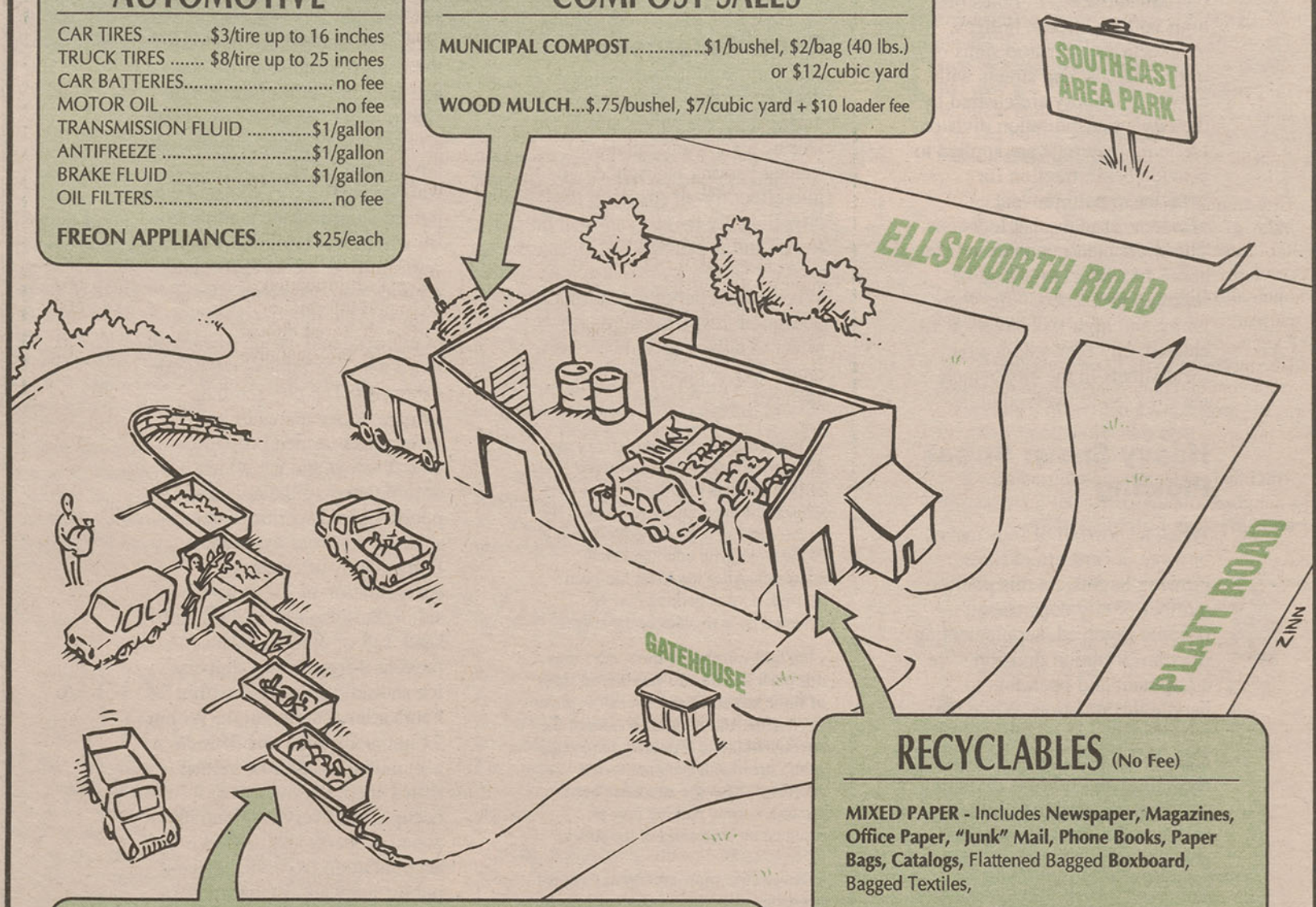
AUTOMOTIVE

CAR TIRES	$3/tire up to 16 inches
TRUCK TIRES	$8/tire up to 25 inches
CAR BATTERIES	no fee
MOTOR OIL	no fee
TRANSMISSION FLUID	$1/gallon
ANTIFREEZE	$1/gallon
BRAKE FLUID	$1/gallon
OIL FILTERS	no fee
FREON APPLIANCES	$25/each

COMPOST SALES

MUNICIPAL COMPOST.....$1/bushel, $2/bag (40 lbs.) or $12/cubic yard

WOOD MULCH...$.75/bushel, $7/cubic yard + $10 loader fee



BULK MATERIALS

Accepted in roll-off tipping area by cubic yard (cy) Fees assessed up to nearest half yard at Gatehouse.

YARD WASTE - Includes soft yard debris and branches up to 6" in diameter. No stumps or logs. **No fee** for city residents; **$12/cy** for non-residents.

UNFINISHED WOOD - Includes clean lumber (untreated, unpainted and unstained) and pallets. **$12/cy**

BUILDING DEBRIS & BULKY WASTE - Includes drywall, carpeting, shingles, furniture, matresses, treated wood, concrete and bricks. **$16/cy**

SCRAP METAL - Includes non-freon metal appliances, microwaves, vehicular parts, gutters, bikes and empty lawn mowers. **No fee**

REFUSE - Includes non-hazardous municipal solid waste. **$14/cy** for City residents and businesses; **$17/cy** for non-residents.

RECYCLABLES (No Fee)

MIXED PAPER - Includes **Newspaper, Magazines, Office Paper, "Junk" Mail, Phone Books, Paper Bags, Catalogs,** Flattened Bagged **Boxboard,** Bagged Textiles,

CORRUGATED BOXES (flattened)

MIXED CONTAINERS - Includes empty, rinsed: **Milk Cartons, Juice Boxes, Glass** (jars, bottles, dishes, pyrex), **Ceramics, Plastic Bottles** (marked #1,2,3) **Metals** (steel cans, lids, empty aerosols, aluminum cans, foil, pie tins)

HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

HARDCOVER BOOKS

STYROFOAM™ (no food waste)

PACKING PEANUTS (bagged)

EGG CARTONS

SEPARATED WHITE and **MIXED OFFICE PAPER**

PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

Winning With City Hall

YOUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor
Ingrid Sheldon

Ward 1
Tobi Hanna-Davies
Patricia Vereen-Dixon

Ward 2
Jane Lumm and David Kwan

Ward 3
Jean Carlberg and Heidi Cowing Herrell

Ward 4
Stephen Hartwell and Patrick Putman

Ward 5
Elisabeth Daley and Christopher Kolb

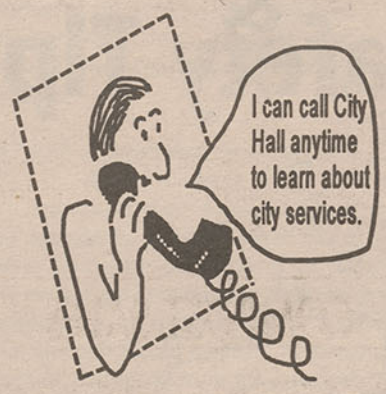
City Council meets on the first and third Monday of the month. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm in Council Chambers on the 2nd floor of city hall, the Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Municipal Building. Council meetings are broadcast live on Ann Arbor Community Television Network, channel 10. Joint caucus meetings are held on the Sunday before a regular council meeting in the Firehall Conference Room at 7:30 pm. Citizens are welcome to attend.

You can leave a message for the Mayor or your council member by calling the Council Message Line at 994-3313.

COMPANIES CAN SIGN UP NOW FOR 1997 CORPORATE CHALLENGE AT 1996 PRICES!

The 1997 award winning Corporate Challenge Canoe Race.. Sunday, July 13, at Gallup Park in Ann Arbor. Sign up early and SAVE! $250 corporate donation if entered by January 31. After January 31, entry fee is $275. Each additional canoe is $225. Proceeds benefit the Parks & Recreation Scholarship Fund for disadvantaged kids in Ann Arbor. Major Sponsors are Canoe Sport, Parke-Davis, and The Ann Arbor News and Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation. Contributors: Bodywise Therapeutic Massage, TUBA, Whole Foods, WIQB, KOOL 107, Warner Brothers Studios, Arbor Springs Water Co., and Barry Bagels. Call today for details. 994-2284

CITIZEN INFORMATION LINE



The Citizen Information Line is designed to provide citizens with information about City of Ann Arbor services **24 hours a day**. The Citizen Information Line is not meant to replace person to person contact, but rather to offer convenient, around the clock information. The messages are designed to answer the most frequently asked questions about city services.

How to use the Information Line:

1. Use a touch tone phone
2. Review the list of topics and select the messages that you want to hear. Have a pencil and paper ready to take notes.
3. **Dial 994-HELP (994-4357).** You will hear an introductory message.
4. Enter the three digit access code you have selected. (You may enter the access code at any time during the introduction).
5. The message recording will give you step-by-step instructions.
6. To disconnect from the Information Line, simply hang-up at any time.

Citizen Information Line 994-HELP (994-4357)

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THANK YOU FOR CALLING!

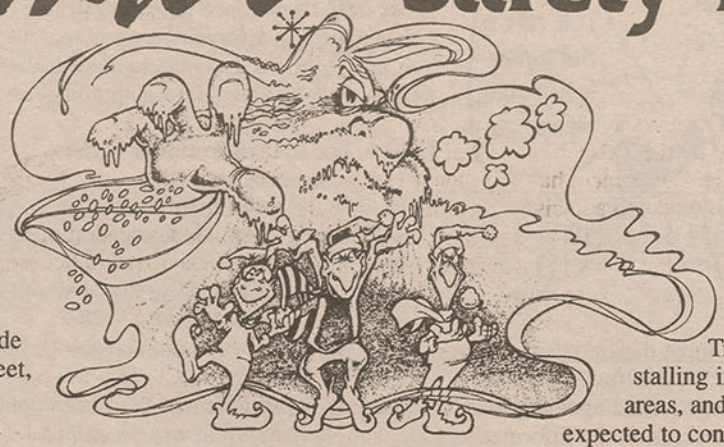
Job Opportunity Line
994-8106

Prospective job applicants may obtain information about city jobs by calling the city's Job Opportunity Line at 994-8106. This service is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Weekly job postings are available after 2pm every Tuesday from the Human Resources Department, and may be viewed on local cable television (CTN, channel 10) intermittently, 24 hours a day.

PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

This Season

Winter Awareness & Safety Tips



Winter Storm Watch indicates severe winter weather conditions may affect our area that might include freezing rain, sleet, or heavy snow (separately or in combination)

Winter Storm Warning - indicates that severe winter conditions are spotted and headed for our area.

Heavy Snow Warning - indicates snowfalls of 6 inches or more in twelve hours or 8 inches or more in a twenty four hour period.

Blizzard Warnings - are issued when there are sustained wind speeds of at least 35 mile per hour for over 3 hours, accompanied by freezing temperatures and considerable falling and/or blowing of snow. Visibility is 1/4 mile or less.

When we experience winter weather, there are three conditions that the City of Ann Arbor will give out to help residents be aware of what the road conditions are:

A. **Snow Traveler's Advisory**

Roads are snow and/or ice covered, hazardous driving conditions are possible with traffic moving at a reduced speed. Drivers are urged to use caution and allow for an extended drive time. If conditions worsen, the traveler's advisory could be upgraded to a ...

B. **Snow Condition Yellow**

Hazardous driving conditions exist with heavy snow or ice, drifting, and limited visibility. Traffic is moving at reduced speeds, major highways are maintained in fair condition, but local roads may be impassable. Motorists are urged that if they must drive, use extreme care and allow a significant drive time. If conditions worsen even further the condition yellow could be upgraded to a...

C. **Snow Condition Red**

Very hazardous driving conditions exist on major highways with heavy snow or ice, severe drifting and extremely limited visibility. The majority of local roads are impassable. Traffic is stalling in some areas, and the storm is expected to continue or worsen. The entire road system may become completely unusable. Motorists are urged not to drive.

If weather conditions are so severe (and this is most likely to occur during a snow condition yellow or red) that snow plows cannot handle the workload or the public's safety is in jeopardy, the City of Ann Arbor will declare a Snow Emergency.

Primary Snow Emergency routes are marked by signs on the streets. Vehicles parked on the primary snow routes will be ticketed and/or towed if parked during a snow emergency.

During heavy snowfalls, the transportation division has a snow desk that is staffed throughout the snow plowing period and during snow emergencies. The snow desk serves as the communication link between the public, other city staff, and plow crews to provide up to date information on plowing operations and any complaints regarding snow removal. The snow desk telephone number is 994-2359. For more information on the snow removal process, call the transportation division at 994-2818.

Last winter we experienced extremely cold temperatures. Frozen pipes were a major problem in some areas and caused a lot of damage. Make sure your heat is set to at least 50 degrees if you leave the house for any extended period. Let your faucet drip if the frost line threatens the underground water pipe line. Call the Ann Arbor Water Utilities Dept. at 994-2666 for further information.

If Ann Arbor experiences a heavy snowfall, call the City Snow Desk at 994-2359 for snow plow/street clearing information.

For more information on how to have a safe and warm winter, please call the Disaster Preparedness office at 761-2425 or 994-4171.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION PROGRAM

The City of Ann Arbor will provide curbside collection of holiday evergreen trees for a two-week period in January from Monday, January 13 through Friday, January 24, 1997. Please have all trees at the curb by 7 a.m. on your weekly refuse and recycling day.

Remember to remove all plastic tree bags, ornaments and stands from the trees. These trees are processed into mulch and any metal, glass or plastic left on the trees may harm the operators, ruin the equipment and spoil the finished product.

Evergreen wreaths with wire or plastic backings should be placed in the trash or, if too large, on top of the trash cans.

During January, evergreen trees may also be taken directly to the parking lot of the new Drop-Off Station, 2950 E. Ellsworth, on Swift Run Park, near Platt Road.

Ann Arbor apartment managers may schedule a special tree pickup with the Solid Waste Department, 994-2807, or may deliver their trees to the Compost Center, at 4120 Platt Road. During the month of January there are no charges for these services to multi-family residence management companies.

WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULES

The "Compostable" collection service stops for the winter season on November 29 and will resume April 1, 1997.

Due to the year end holidays, there will be no refuse or recycling collection services provided on Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25, 1996 and on New Year's Day, January 1, 1997. The normal Wednesday collections will occur on Thursday and continue one day later through the week with the Friday collection areas serviced on Saturday during these two holiday weeks. The commercial "green bag" recycling collections will occur as usual on Thursday throughout the holiday season. There is no interruption of collection service for Martin Luther King Day on January 20.

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Word on the Streets

TAXICAB BOARD ADOPTS REGULATIONS

The City of Ann Arbor Taxicab Board recently adopted regulations to facilitate the administration of Chapter 85 of the City Code. Inquiries about the regulations or the operation of taxicabs in the City of Ann Arbor should be directed to the Finance Department at 994-4602.

R7:153 Application for taxicab license.

An application for a taxicab license shall be accompanied by the following documents: 1) a used vehicle inspection form (required if the vehicle being licensed is not new), 2) a copy of the vehicle registration, and 3) evidence of insurance in the type and amounts established by City Code. Failure to provide all required elements will result in the rejection of the application for a taxicab license until such time as all the documentation is provided. Application forms and used vehicle inspection forms are available in the City Finance Department.

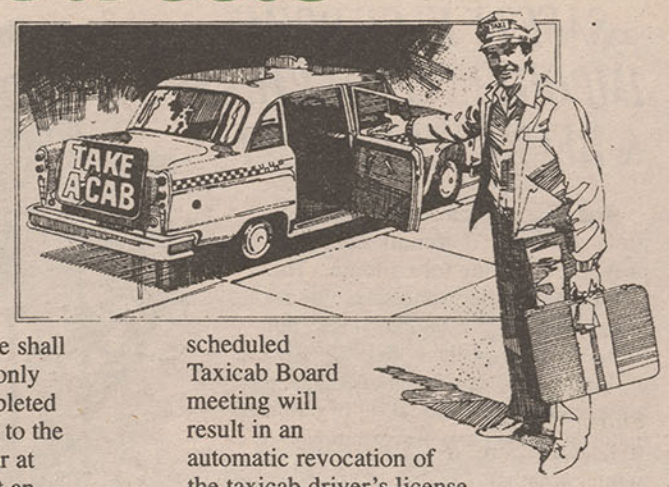
R7:156 License plate.

The license plate (decal) shall be permanently affixed in the lower corner of the vehicle windshield on the passenger side. The decal shall be removed at the expiration of the license.

R7:159 Application for taxicab driver's license.

Appeals of drivers denied a license shall be considered by the Taxicab Board only after the Police Department has completed its review and rendered a decision as to the application. If a driver fails to appear at the Taxicab Board meeting to present an appeal, the application for a taxicab driver's license will automatically be denied until such time as the driver appears personally before the Taxicab Board. Application forms for a taxicab driver's license are available in the Police Department.

Any properly licensed taxicab driver who is denied renewal due to an unsatisfactory driving record or criminal history may continue to drive pending appeal at the next scheduled Taxicab Board meeting. Failure to appear at the next scheduled Taxicab Board meeting will result in an automatic revocation of the taxicab driver's license.



R7:182 Complaints.

It shall be the practice of the Taxicab Board to act upon written complaints. Members of the general public may either submit a written complaint or a city employee may reduce a verbal complaint to writing for the citizen. Members of the taxicab industry wishing to make a complaint to the Taxicab Board must do so in writing. "Anonymous" telephone complaints will be noted for informational purposes.

Update from the Parks

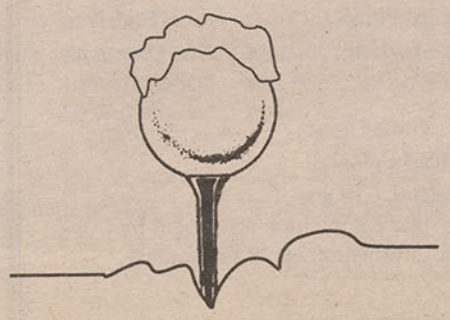
SKIING UNDER THE STARS

Cross country ski under the stars on specially lighted ski paths, weather permitting, at Huron Hills Ski Center on Fridays, December 13th, January 17th and February 7th from 6:30-9pm. Regular trail fees and ski rental rates in effect. Call 971-6840 for more information.

GOLFING FOR THE DIE HARD

Don't miss the Chili Open Golf Tournament at Leslie Park Golf Course on Saturday, January 11th. Play six holes of golf in the snow, hopefully. Registration for Ann Arbor residents begins the week of December 9th. Registration for non-City of Ann Arbor residents begins the week of December 16th. For more information call 971-6840 or 994-2786.

Need more golf in the snow? Because of the popularity of the Chili Open, we added the Blizzard Ball Scramble several years ago. This 6 hole golf tournament will be held on February 8th at Leslie Park Golf Course. This event is a 4 person scramble. Registration for City of Ann Arbor residents begins the week of December 30th. Registration for non-City of Ann Arbor residents begins the week of January 6th. For more information call 971-6840 or 994-2786.



SCIENCE CENTER NOW OFFERING MEMBERSHIPS

Leslie Science Center is one of the city's best success stories. In the last ten years the center has been transformed from a facility that serviced two hundred participants to an award-winning environmental education center with over 15,000 yearly participants. Program Director Kirsten Levinsohn attributes the growth to the focus of the Science Center. Children and their families enjoy science and nature experiences through festivals, camps, school field trips, kidscience birthday parties and scout programs. "Our day camp is one of the few accredited camp programs in the area." says Levinsohn. "Sometimes our programs fill before we even advertise them."

Because of this huge following, the Science Center created a membership plan which offers special "perks" to families, individuals and businesses who support the center. There are different levels of membership including youth, family, individual, lifetime and corporate. Perks are based on the level of commitment and include discounts on programs, free T-shirts and mugs, and special members-only events.

For more information about membership, please call 662-7802.

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Update from the Parks, contd

SAFETY IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO PARKS & RECREATION STAFF

The City of Ann Arbor is taking great strides in its commitment to provide safer play for children. The first commitment to the safety issue began with a Park Maintenance and Rehabilitation Millage in 1993. This millage funds, among other things, the replacement and renovation of outdated material in the park playgrounds.

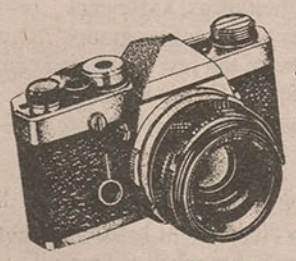
The second commitment was in sending Park Operations maintenance supervisors, staff and park planners to an intensive training in governmental safety standards as established by The ASTM (American Society of Testing and Materials). The ASTM works to provide safe play in our playgrounds and addresses injuries identified by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission. Three members of the park management staff are certified by the National Playground Safety Institute and the National Recreation and Park Association as Playground Safety Inspectors. All playground renovations and new playground designs are created according to these standards.

The third commitment was to establish a system for playground inspection and review of play equipment, establishing priorities with guidelines for repair and replacement and identifying, for removal, hazards in the play area. Replacement equipment is purchased only from manufacturers who meet the guidelines for safe play as established by ASTM.

During the past fiscal year, eight park playgrounds were renovated to meet these standards, including Gallup, Wheeler, Cranbrook, Sugarbush, Longshore, Hunt, Riverside and Ward Parks. Nine more parks are scheduled to be completed before the end of summer. These are Las Vegas, Island, Wurster, Bromley, Woodbury, Burns, Clinton, Winewood Thaler, and Leslie Parks. "We will continue to make the necessary improvements in order to provide the safest play opportunities for children of all ages in our community." says Tom Raynes, Manager of Park Planning and Development.

For more information about park improvements or park safety, please call 994-2780.

FOCUS ON MICHIGAN PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ATTRACTS OVER 100 ENTRIES!



The Ann Arbor Department of Parks & Recreation recently announced the local winners in the 1997 "Focus on Michigan" photography contest. The contest was open to all amateur photographers in three age divisions: youth (17 & under), adult (18 - 54) and senior (55 and older). Local winners received gift certificates from Precision Photographics, Foto 1, and Studio Center Photographics. Winners are as follows:

Senior

1st Place .....Anne James Breiholz
2nd Place .....Trudy Huntington
3rd Place .....Doris Kraushaar

Adult

1st Place .....Elisabeth Alonso
2nd & 3rd Place .....Lori Frandzen
Honor. Mention .....Cynthia Overmyer

Youth

1st Place .....Chris Heine
2nd Place .....Michael Caldwell
3rd Place .....Patrick Grimes

The winning entries will automatically enter the state competition sponsored by the Michigan Recreation and Park Association. For information about the contest, please call 994-2284.

OPEN HOUSES AT THE MRF

The City's Material Recovery Facility (MRF) hosts two open houses every month on the second Saturday morning and second Tuesday afternoon. The open houses give the public a chance to view the recycling and waste transfer operations from the windows of the Education Center and to ask questions of the tour guides. There is no admission fee. Please call 994-2807 for more information and directions. The MRF Education Center may also be booked for free weekday group tours. The following special topic will be included as part of the tours:

December - Small Gift Workshop

Tuesday, December 10, 1-4 p.m. and Saturday, December 14, 10-Noon

Some of life's most cherished gifts are handmade. There will be recycled-content craft supplies available to allow each visitor to have two small gifts and wrappings. The projects are designed for children, but adults are encouraged to make these gifts as well. Examples of additional gifts from reused materials will be on display, courtesy of the Scrap Box.

NEW DROP OFF STATION TO OPEN

On Wednesday, December 4, the city will open the gates to a new full-service Drop-Off Station at 2950 E. Ellsworth, near Platt Road. The new location will combine and replace the operations of two separate drop-off facilities. At the new site, the city has expanded upon the best of both former locations by accepting a wider range of recyclables, bulky waste materials, appliances and refuse, while providing longer hours each weekday and Saturday! (See the specifics of the program on the full-page drawing in this newsletter.) The new City of Ann Arbor Drop-Off Station will be operated by Recycle Ann Arbor. For more information, call 662-6288 (RAA), the Solid Waste Department 994-2807, or the 24-hour city waste information line, 99-GREEN.

The purpose of For The People: The Ann Arbor City Government Newsletter is to transmit factual information to the community from Ann Arbor city staff on a quarterly basis.

Please send comments to:
City of Ann Arbor Public Information Office
100 North Fifth Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48107
313.994.1766

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Fran Blouin's audacious project

How the Bentley Library updated the Vatican Archives

Fran Blouin, director of the U-M's Bentley Historical Library, felt some trepidation as he approached the dark wooden double doors to the office of Father Josef Metzler, the prefect of the Vatican Archives in Rome. Blouin was there to tell the prefect that the legendary archives, the official repository of church documents dating back to the ninth century, were woefully disorganized.

A few minutes earlier, Blouin had presented his passport and a letter of introduction to a Swiss Guard arrayed in fifteenth-century regalia at the *Porta Santa Anna*, the work entrance of the Vatican. Arriving at the Vatican Archives, he rode the elevator to the third floor and walked through a series of beautifully appointed rooms to the prefect's door. A secretary responded to Blouin's knock and ushered him into a vacant office. Suddenly a rear door camouflaged as a bookcase swung open, and Father Metzler appeared before him.

"I was awestruck to be there," says Blouin. Prior to that day in 1984, his only experience had been with nineteenth-century American archives. A member of the American Friends of the Vatican Library, Blouin had come to Rome to meet Reverend Leonard Boyle, the new head of the Vatican Library. Professional curiosity drew him into the adjacent archives. In the beautiful main reading room, he recalls, he had expected to encounter a European archival system that was "a paragon of organizational efficiency." He instead was shocked to discover that one of the richest archival sources on the history of the Western world was astonishingly difficult to use.

The *Archivio Segreto Vaticano* were organized in 1611 by Pope Paul V and opened to scholars in 1881. The documents in the archives illuminate the economic, political, social, diplomatic, and cultural history of Europe, the discovery and exploration of the New World, and the history of religion. At the time Blouin first saw them, however, the archives depended on an access system that had evolved over a period of 300 years, becoming ever more complex and outdated.

In his meeting with Prefect Metzler, Blouin proposed that the Vatican Archives adopt an access system similar to the one used at the Bentley Library. Fortunately, that audacious suggestion came at just the right moment—Metzler himself was new to the job. He clearly recognized the archives' organizational problems and welcomed a fresh approach. Blouin's meeting with Metzler, and a subsequent meeting with Reverend Boyle, author of the highly regarded standard reference guide to the archives, launched what Blouin calls an "improbable collaboration"—and the greatest adventure of his career. A team assembled by Blouin has since created a computer database that describes every document in the archives. Scholars throughout the United States can already search for information on-line, and the entire database will be published as a book next year.

When Blouin returned from Rome to Ann Arbor twelve years ago, he immediately began to confront and solve the problems standing in the way of updating the Vatican Archives. He and members of his Bentley staff, he recalls, had to "sift out what is possible from what is not possible." A key conclusion they reached was that it would be possible to determine the exact physical contents of the archives. A bigger problem was that, while Prefect Metzler welcomed the Bentley's assistance, he could offer no funding to support the project. In 1987, Blouin obtained a seed grant from the Office of the U-M Vice-President for Research. After using the seed money to sharpen the project's focus, Blouin hoped to interest international and national foundations in funding a more extensive project.

As the little-known director of a little-known Michigan library, however, Blouin needed an entrée. He found it in John D'Arms, U-M professor of classical studies and former dean of the Rackham Graduate School. D'Arms had also been director of the American Academy in Rome, and he put Blouin in touch with the president of the academy, who led the Michigan archivist to the right contacts. Blouin, his contacts at the academy, and Reverend Boyle assembled an international coalition of scholars to verify the extent of the problems in the archives. Once the need was established, the project received grants totaling $450,000 over a nine-year period from the Getty Grant Program in California, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Lilly Endowment, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The biggest problem now facing Blouin was finding someone who could read the documents in the archives. Most are written in medieval Latin and early Italian in nearly illegible handwriting. Perhaps it was divine intervention that led him to Katherine Gill, a Ph.D. student at Princeton University, who had studied at the Vatican Archives. Gill, now assistant professor of history in the divinity school at Yale University, was their missing link. Able to read medieval Latin and early Italian, she was also a student of paleography (the study of ancient handwriting) and, best of all, was delighted to join the project. From her own experience, Gill says, she knew that using the Vatican Archives was "very frustrating." She had witnessed "numerous scholars unable to complete their projects as originally planned because it took them the whole year just to figure out how to use the archives."

PHOTOS COURTESY BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY

(Top) The main reading room at the Vatican Archives. (Inset) Fran Blouin (r), and the team he assembled to create a new access system for one of the most important archival sources on the history of the Western world (from left): Claudia Carlen, Elizabeth Yakel, Len Coombs, and Tom Powers. (absent: Katherine Gill).

The rest of the staff fell quickly into place. Elizabeth Yakel, at the time a Bentley archivist, spent a year in Rome with Gill, surveying archival materials. They visited each shelf, inventorying ten linear miles of documents. Sister Claudia Carlen contributed histories of the Vatican agencies to the new database. Carlen, a longtime friend of Blouin's, is a 1927 graduate of the U-M School of Library Science and former library head at Marygrove College. A noted authority on papal documents, she brought to the project a lifelong interest in the Vatican Archives. According to Blouin, "This agency history information has drawn considerable attention in its own right since nothing [else] as encyclopedic on the subject of the organization of the Vatican now exists."

By 1989–1990, the project was fully under way. Bentley archivist Len Coombs received information from Carlen, Yakel, and Gill, edited the text for language consistency, and prepared it for entry into RLIN, the Research Libraries Group database. Coombs has continued to refine the database ever since. Scholars throughout the United States can now find descriptions of the material available in the Vatican Archives on RLIN. This allows them to hone and narrow their research strategies before they leave the country, saving them considerable time and money once they arrive in Rome.

The Vatican Archives Project is now in its final phase. By next year, the entire project will be available as a book—a very fat book—from Oxford University Press. Funding through the American Friends of the Vatican Library and the Homeland Foundation of New York ensures that the database will soon be available on-line in the Vatican Archives. A final important goal is to place an archives' staff member in charge of updating and maintaining the database.

One of the most significant results of the Bentley Library's Vatican Archives Project is that the archives are now far more useful to scholars in the humanities. The previous access system was framed by experts trained in papal diplomatics or ecclesiastical history—a major impediment for scholars unfamiliar with the terminology of those disciplines or the history and structure of the church in general. The information in the new database is oriented instead toward a wide range of scholarly interests.

John D'Arms credits Blouin with implementing "superb technology to complete an enormously valuable project that will continue to have a major impact on many fields of the humanities." Blouin himself gives much of the recognition to his colleagues. His only explanation for bringing together Claudia Carlen, Katherine Gill, Elizabeth Yakel, and Len Coombs to update the Vatican Archives, Blouin says, is "extraordinary luck."

—Penny Schreiber

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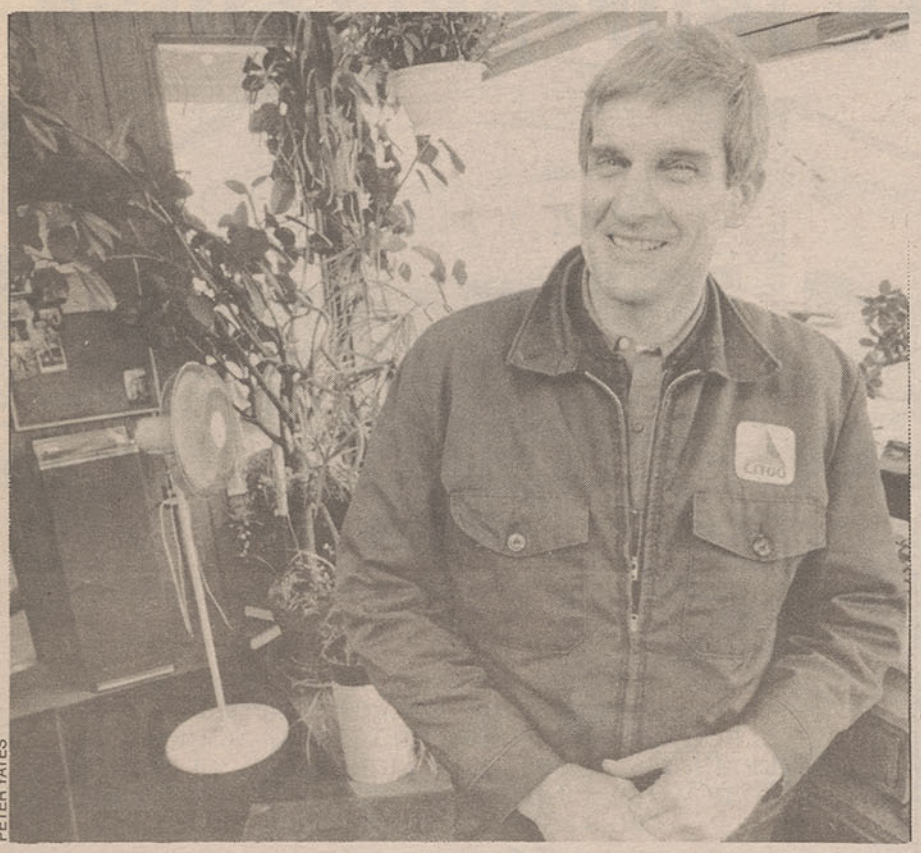

PETER YATES

John Mendler

Passersby sometimes mistake his gas station for a greenhouse

"I believe plants cleanse the atmosphere," Mallek's Service Station owner John Mendler says with a smile, the leaves of a hanging jade plant tickling his forehead. "It [the station] doesn't have the greasy gas station aroma."

In the twenty years Mendler has owned it, the service station at the Jackson-Dexter fork has become almost holistic in atmosphere. Inside, it's filled with houseplants; outside, in warm weather, it's surrounded by well-tended flower beds. Currently, Christmas lights and wreaths festoon the small, brick building. Recently, a new customer stopped to buy gas; she said she'd finally realized Mallek's wasn't a greenhouse. Mendler has twice won the Golden Trowel Award, the city's annual beautification prize.

Former employee Scott Snuverink (now owner of Triangle Towing) persuaded Mendler to experiment with greenery back when he worked at Mallek's. When they first began the plantings, Snuverink recalls, customers "were ranting and raving about the gas station and the flowers." Mendler confesses, however, that the novelty has worn thin. "I'm at the point where if I had my druthers, I'd rather not do it because the garlands have gotten so expensive, and the flowers are so expensive." But the customers would howl if he stopped now, and besides, he genuinely likes plants.

Except for the landscaping, Mendler runs a stripped-down business. "Cigarettes? Candy bars?" new customers ask, searching in vain among the shelves of oil and antifreeze. "We lose a lot of good business because of [not selling convenience store items]," he says, but the station really doesn't have room to expand. Besides, "I just want to keep it a service station. . . . All they're getting here is gas and, hopefully, somebody to talk to them."

Customers can also get their cars repaired, of course. (Gas alone won't even pay your overhead, Mendler explains.) In a discussion among Ann Arborites on finding a reputable place to service your car, Mendler's name quickly surfaces. "He is very, very honest," says Old West Side resident (and Observer advertising manager) Vikki Enos. She once received a list of repair estimates from a dealer totaling $1,800. When she showed Mendler the estimate, he offered to do the crucial repairs for $250. Enos says that Mendler and his guys—mechanics Dick Neff (a thirty-year employee) and Jamie Neylons and attendant Mike Bock—send out friendly vibes. They once checked her car to see if there was a mouse on the loose.

Mendler, fifty-two, is lean, strapping, blue-eyed, and very, very tall (6' 5"). He projects a certain laconic, cowboyish quality. Insisting on standing instead of sitting during an interview, he says "Yep" a lot and looks embarrassed when the discussion turns to his personal life. He does say that he inherited his love of tinkering with cars from his grandfather, a tank-truck driver. His father, a vice-president of the Sunbeam Corporation, moved the family across the Midwest thirteen times while Mendler was growing up. After graduating from high school in Milwaukee, Mendler attended Northern Michigan University, where he played football. He met his wife, Janet Nellis Mendler, also a NMU student, after he drove behind her on the outskirts of Marquette during a blizzard. Tracking him down later, Janet called to bawl him out for almost running her off the road—a charge he calls "a matter of opinion." Still, "I went beyond apologizing," he says. The two were married right after graduation.

The Mendlers lived in Marquette for seven years before moving to southeast Michigan in 1971, first to Detroit, then to Ann Arbor. For five years, Mendler worked for Texaco in Taylor as a district sales supervisor, a job that involved helping new dealers get started. "He was a big shot at Texaco before he bought the station," says Scott Snuverink. "He got totally fed up with the corporate way of doing things."

"I guess that's about right," says Mendler, when asked about this comment.

When he bought the station, Mendler made it his own in everything but name. "I figure it's been Mallek's Service since 1941," he says. "Why not keep it?" (Under the glass surface of his beat-up desk, there's a newspaper clipping about the opening of Cash Mallek and Doug Hoppe's new station.) For years, Mendler wouldn't allow his mechanics to listen to the radio while they worked. A stickler for punctuality, he'd call early on his days off to make sure the station opened on time.

"His philosophy," explains Scott Snuverink, "is he doesn't want pissed-off customers." Snuverink shares something else: Mendler gave him his start in the towing business, selling him a tow truck he'd repaired and allowing him to do business from the station until he could afford his own place. "You will just not find a nicer human being than that guy there," says Snuverink.

The Mendlers moved from Ann Arbor to Pinckney several years ago because, John explains, "it just seemed like it was time for a change." In his spare time, he's rebuilding an old Mercedes and a couple of Volvos.

"I can truthfully say it is not difficult to go to work," says Mendler. Most days, he arrives at 5 a.m. and enjoys the quiet hour before the station opens. "I want to get my days organized. I dislike having things left [to do] by the end of the day."

More than 90 percent of the station's customers are regulars who live nearby. The weeks before Christmas, they drop off cards, brownies, and cookies in the plant-filled room. "They're just very nice people," says Mendler. That neighborliness is what he likes best about the space he's created at the intersection of Dexter and Jackson.

"I don't know if things would be as enjoyable out on the expressway," he says.

—Eve Silberman

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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Halloween encounter

The talking house vs. the talking car

Henry Herskovitz's talking house has been a Halloween neighborhood sensation since 1987. Herskovitz lives at 404 Mark Hannah Place, a kid-infested west-side street. Each Halloween he rigs his yard with a PA system and from 6 to 8 p.m. sits with a microphone in a darkened upstairs bedroom. When he speaks, the house appears to talk. *"This is the Talking House!"* it booms out every thirty seconds. Herskovitz ponderously rattles off a stream of bad jokes, political commentary, and critiques on the quality of approaching trick-or-treaters' costumes. Meanwhile, downstairs, several friends hand out candy.

This year was the best talking-house spectacle yet. At about 7:30, as the neighborhood swarmed with trick-or-treaters, a police car slowly cruised down the street. *"The Talking House is glad to see Ann Arbor's finest out protecting the streets,"* intoned the talking house.

The squad car slowed to a stop in front of the talking house and turned on its flashing red and blue lights. "When do we get a treat?" countered one of the officers over the car's bullhorn. Although the sound was not as powerful or resonant as the talking house's, it was quite impressive.

"When you come up to the door like everyone else. This is the Talking House!"

"All right. Drop the microphone and come out with your hands up."

"Drop your *microphone and come out with* your *hands up! This is the Talking House!"* An awed crowd of spectators had swelled to about fifty.

"We are responding to a noise complaint." The voice over the police loudspeaker was authoritative and commanding, but those close to the action could see the officers were having a hard time keeping straight faces.

"There are no noise complaints in Transylvania. By the way, the Talking House hopes that your license plate lights are working."

"Well, we'll let you go this time."

> *As the squad car made its way slowly down the street, the talking house called after the departing officers:* "Remember, the faster you drive, the quicker you'll get there."

"The Talking House has decided not to issue a citation at this time. The Talking House will let you off with a warning. Drive safely, and thank you for the light show."

As the squad car made its way slowly down the street, the talking house called after the departing officers: *"Remember, the faster you drive, the quicker you'll get there."*

Upstairs in the darkened room, Herskovitz was sweating slightly from the adrenaline rush of heckling the cops and getting away with it. Later, we asked if it had ever occurred to him that the officers might really have been responding to a noise complaint. Herskovitz shrugged. "I didn't care. I had a lawyer and a federal magistrate in my living room."

Letter from L.A.

Even Borders is different

A friend writes:

Back when I lived in Ann Arbor, I noticed something that former Ann Arborites did whenever they got in touch with me. Invariably, at the end of the conversation, they would ask wistfully, "How's the town?" I would just answer, "Fine, the same," not knowing what they were getting at. I mean, "How's the town?"—what's that supposed to mean?

Now I know.

I've been gone only five months, but I've already become one of those people who are all romantic about Ann Arbor. The other day my mother called, and I caught myself asking her wistfully, "How's the town?" She understood the real question and answered it the proper way—describing the crisp fall day, relating a visit to Shaman Drum, bringing word of running into mutual friends, and remarking on how the Red Hawk was still packed at lunch. It was like hearing a report on an old flame.

Now I live in Los Angeles. L.A.'s great and all, but, you know, except for that pesky weather thing, Ann Arbor's no slouch either. I'm surprised at the things I miss. I miss knowing who the drain commissioner is. I miss going to meetings to protest the Burger King. I miss Red Hot Lovers. God, do I miss Red Hot Lovers.

But I digress. The point of all this is that I've learned some things about L.A. vs. Ann Arbor since I've moved. I list them here—to spare you the time and expense of moving yourself.

Borders: The other day I asked an employee at my local Los Angeles Borders an easy question about a CD boxed set I was looking for. He said—get this—"I don't know." And that was it. He didn't look it up on a computer. He didn't make quick phone calls to other employees. He didn't consult a gigantic reference book. I'm beginning to suspect he didn't even have a Ph.D.

Style: There are a lot of women out here with tiny bodies, huge hair, and giant, uh, boobs. In my thirteen years in Ann Arbor, I'd mastered the I'm-too-intellectual-to-get-gussied-up look. In L.A., that look gets you called "Sir." I've already begun giving in—I've started wearing makeup and even bought some uncomfortable girl-type shoes. Yes, I'm talking heels. I'm afraid when I come home for the holidays, I'll have Heather Locklear hair and jewel-encrusted sunglasses.

Size: I think size does count, after all. Ann Arbor is a self-contained place. If you drive across town in Ann Arbor, eventually you get across town. In L.A., you can drive for hours and find yourself looking at a Koo-Koo-Roo indistinguishable from the one you started at. (Koo-Koo-Roo is a fast-food restaurant with the ultra-unappetizing slogan, "Skinless Chicken." That's another good thing about Ann Arbor—there's no talk of skinless chicken.)

Chinese Food: I never got those "What the hell part of the chicken is in that Chinese food?" jokes before. In Ann Arbor's Chinese restaurants, the chicken was just chicken. In L.A., the jokes make sense. I was recently served some "chicken" that I'm pretty sure was comprised solely of chicken skin (left over from the Koo-Koo-Roo across the street, no doubt).

Intellect: I always thought those dumb characters on TV sitcoms were just comedy "types" used by lazy scriptwriters. But I was wrong. In L.A., those characters are as accurate as a documentary. The other day my neighbor asked me what "formaldehyde" was. This is the same neighbor whom I overheard arguing with someone about whether New England was a state. It was explained to my neighbor that the term "New England" was analogous (of course, "analogous" was not the word used) to the description "Southwest." To which my neighbor retorted, "So, you mean to tell me that if I looked at a map, I would *not* find the state of New England?"

It was at that exact moment that I realized just how far away Ann Arbor really was.

So, how's the town? ■

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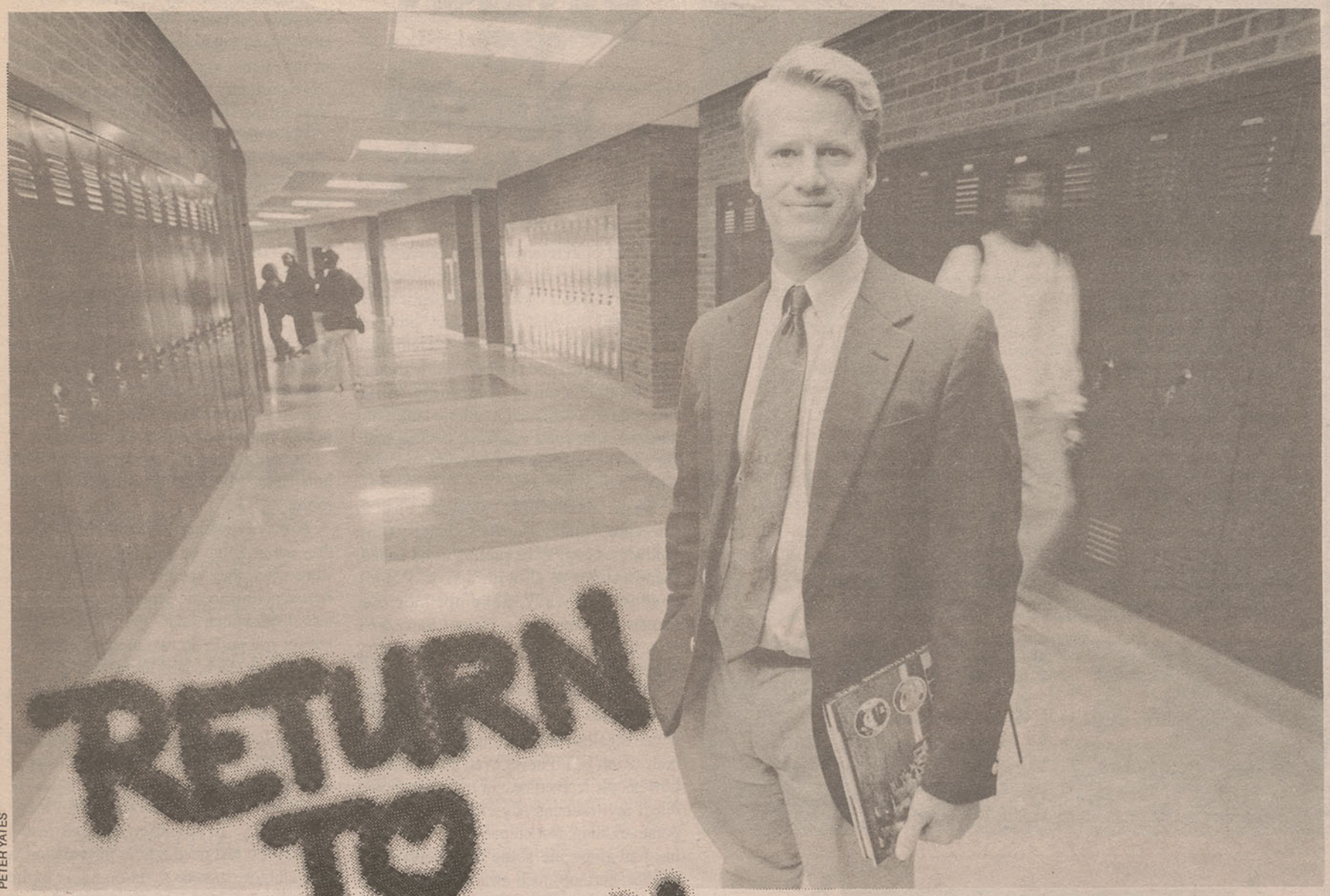

PETER YATES

RETURN TO HURON HIGH

In 1993, writer John Bacon came back to his old school as a student teacher. He learned far more than he bargained for the second time around.

Based on the forthcoming book *What I Learned in School Today*

by John U. Bacon

SEPTEMBER

I am back in Room 6202 at Huron High School, the same room where I took U.S. history as a junior in 1981. It was in this room, through the same PA speaker, that I heard the Pope had been shot, John Hinckley had made an attempt on Ronald Reagan's life, and Anwar Sadat had been assassinated. Fifth hour was a bad period for world leaders.

The speaker has taken a few dings in the twelve years since then. It may be getting old, but I feel positively ancient. The kids wearing combat boots, purple mohawks, marijuana-leaf necklaces, and T-shirts that say "Fuck Parental Authority" look like ne'er-do-wells to me. I can only guess how I look to them with my Richie Cunningham haircut, George Will glasses, paisley tie, and penny loafers. Without realizing it, somewhere in my twenties I made the irreversible leap from Us to Them.

A few minutes after the bell rings, a couple of latecomers notice me sitting in the corner, waiting dumbly for class to begin. One of them is a sullen young man with long hair slicked back, a thatch of beard on his chin, and a black Megadeth T-shirt on his thin torso. I ask him, "Am I in your seat?"

"Nah, man—*that* ain't my seat," he answers. "*Sheeaat.*" A few kids laugh, admiringly. By the new standards of Huron High, he isn't trying to be rude—he's being accommodating, even jovial.

I don't expect Huron to be the same place it was when I graduated in 1982. But, as a brand-new student teacher, I do hope to give back to Huron what it often gave me: inspired teaching, the kind that made me do more work than required, the kind that helped me to realize there's more to life than just earning a paycheck.

I gave up a good job to come back to Huron and I overcame a lot of deep-seated doubts to walk through the front door of the U-M School of Education. Professors in other fields have looked down upon ed schools since their inception. In 1933 the departing

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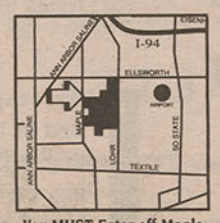

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ANN ARBOR

RETURN TO HURON HIGH

president of Harvard told the university's board that Harvard's Graduate School of Education was a "kitten that ought to be drowned." But Michigan's MAC program is more rigorous than most, providing a master's degree and teacher certification in just twelve months. According to the brochure, it's designed to attract ambitious students with solid academic backgrounds for an intense study of education—exactly what I was looking for.

To get into the MAC program, I had to interview with one of its founders, Gary Knowles. Gary, as he prefers to be called, stands about 6' 4" with a five o'clock shadow and wavy, unkempt hair that frames his face like a far-out barrister's wig. He looks like a taller, sleeker Jerry Garcia.

Gary's first question, "How do you learn best?" threw me off-balance, and I never regained my footing the rest of the hour. Truth is, I'd never even thought about how people learned best or how that should direct my teaching. My experience in corporate training, test preparation, and coaching has given me some confidence as a teacher, but not much awareness of what I am doing. My knowledge of teaching is like that of a guy who drills some holes in the ground, strikes oil a couple of times, and therefore figures he's a geologist.

How *do* people learn best? I can't imagine a better question to consider. I'm excited to be in a program where I'll be expected to do just that.

The schedule is straightforward. I student-teach at Huron during the day, then go to the U-M in the evening for one of three classes: social studies teaching methods, an English cognate, and the "Core Curriculum," which combines research, field experience, and discussion. My Core classmates and I are taught by Gary and another professor, Stella Clark, plus four teaching assistants.

At our first session yesterday, the Core professors made it clear that their approach will be hands-off when it comes to issues like classroom management and instructional technique. That suits me fine. There are dozens of big issues I'm eager to explore—like the pros and cons of charter schools, vouchers, tracking, team-teaching, and multicultural education—so I don't want to waste time learning how to write on a chalkboard.

My mentor at Huron is Art Rogers, who's taught history for thirty-eight years. After his third-hour class, he takes me down to eat lunch in the faculty lounge with a group of his friends. Their table always seems to have the most animated teachers and the best conversations.

The talk quickly turns to the overcrowded hallways. When another MAC student and I observed the corridors earlier in the week, the halls were filled with more profanity than a rap record and more shoving than a rugby scrum.

"Is it me," I ask, "or have the hallways changed since my day?"

The chorus around the table tells me I'm not going crazy. One teacher cracks, "The halls are as congested as L.A. freeways—though our students are better armed."

"The yelling, the pushing, the fighting. They've figured out they can do all this stuff without consequence," says another teacher. "You get told to 'Fuck off' enough times, it wears on you. After a while, you just keep walking. That's my policy now—if it doesn't affect you, ignore it."

"I hate to say it," another agrees, "but he's right. You just have to stay in your room."

Not one teacher at the table believes they are as tough on discipline now as they were when they started teaching. My own first reaction to the students' wildness is less disgust than fear—not for my safety, but for my pride: in two months, when it's my turn to teach, will these kids give me any respect, or will I be embarrassed in front of all my old teachers?

That fear doesn't fade, but over the next few weeks, as I watch Art Rogers teach, I get a better perspective on my mission. To me, these students seem amazingly tough and worldly. To Art, they're babes in the woods who just need a little information, a little ribbing, to keep them on track. In the classroom, Rodgie, as the students call him, is equal parts Groucho Marx and Robin Williams; everything he does is dramatic, every outburst is fueled by humor.

Rodgie runs his classroom like a judo master, never confronting the kids head-on but subtly redirecting their energy—and usually getting them to laugh in the process. "If I took on every smart-aleck remark I heard," he tells me, "I'd never last this long." But that doesn't mean he just takes it.

When Lenny,* the Megadeth kid, complains that Rodgie's policy on turning in notes is "not fair" because he's missed a few days (skipping class, it turns out), Rodgie gives a memorable response. "Oh, it's not *fair*," he says, in a gently mocking tone. "That's one of high school kids' favorite lines. You know, I'll let you in on a little secret, Lenny, that I've figured out from my three thousand years of teaching: ninety-five percent of everything high school kids say can be covered in *five phrases*. That's right!" He then ticks them off with his right hand, each time mimicking a high school student's delivery.

"One: 'It's not fair!'

"Two: '*I* dunno.'

"Three: 'What?'

"Four: 'I wasn't doing anything!'

"Five: 'Is it on the test?'"

Once they're chuckling, Rodgie picks up the pace for the punch line: "So you say five and I say two and you say one. 'Is it on the test?' 'I don't know.' 'It's not fair!'" The class gets a good laugh, and I get a clever

*Student names and some identifying details have been changed.

example of what my education professors call "classroom management."

Seen through Rodgie's eyes, my future charges seem less hostile, less scary. To paraphrase Mark Twain, it's amazing how much they've changed.

OCTOBER

Last week, the *Ann Arbor News* came out with an in-depth series on school violence. In one of the stories, a reporter described our little history hall as a "narrow corridor famous for fighting because so many students squeeze through at one time."

Today the abstract problem of school violence became concrete. A fight broke out involving a dozen kids, at least three ethnic groups, a ten-inch rod, and enough blood to create a little river down the staircase.

Today the abstract problem of school violence became concrete. A fight broke out involving a dozen kids, at least three ethnic groups, a ten-inch rod, and enough blood to create a little river down the staircase.

Tensions had been growing all week between a white kid and an Arab-American, and today, when they literally bumped into each other at the landing atop the third-floor staircase, the spark ignited a rumble. The Arab student was getting pummeled, so one of his friends jumped into the pile with the metal rod. This prompted the white kids and black kids to finally team up in a common cause—which, unfortunately, happened to be kicking the crap out of a small group of Arab-Americans. So maybe that wasn't exactly what the diversity workshop leaders had in mind.

A circle of kids had tried to keep the teachers away from the fight, but some brave souls busted through anyway and stopped it. One of them caught the irony. "We've at least achieved diversity in fighting," he said to me afterward. "Though some female students might submit a grievance for underrepresentation."

After school I head to Gary and Stella's class, eager to sort out the day's events. But when I get to class, Gary has a videotape in his hand and a devilish grin on his face. He starts the VCR, hits the lights, and asks us to note our observations.

I watch the grainy, silent film, and note the following: "African natives walking. Two collect water. One drinks some. Another prepares a killed gazelle to cook. Three dig a hole." The tape is over in five minutes. Gary asks, "What are some of the issues for you?"

Mike says he used his imagination to fill in some of the gaps. "Not appropriate," Gary rules, with a smile.

Daisy says, "I found myself jumping to conclusions."

"Ah-ha!" Gary says. He reveals that the tribe is actually a band of Aborigines, and the animal they're preparing is not a gazelle but a kangaroo. From Gary's subsequent monologue, we learn that sometimes we don't see everything that's going on. Sometimes it matters, sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes people can look at the same thing and see it differently. And sometimes, we don't see things quite the way they really are.

As the hour wears on, my patience wears thin. When I entered the ed school a month ago, I only wanted to learn educational theory. By now I realize I also need to know how to survive, and how to teach. As I watch a band of Aborigines prepare a kangaroo just hours after watching human blood drip down the Huron staircase, I conclude that my Core class isn't going to teach me much about those things.

With my teaching debut rapidly approaching, I keep waiting for Gary and Stella to address the cardinal question, "How do we learn?" Instead, we spend a lot of time talking about what we're going to talk about—when we're not talking about the words we will use to talk about it.

Gary opens one session by discarding the term "student teacher," which he considers oppressive, and giving us a new title, "pre-service teacher." Our mentors are not called mentors, but "cooperating teachers." Instead of disagreements, we have "diverse perspectives," "personal viewpoints," and people simply "coming from different places."

The professors correct us if we use terms like "right," "wrong," "good," "bad," "success," "failure," even "effective." We have learned to put any word that might suggest a value judgment between quotation marks. We make those quotation marks with our fingers as we speak, and do it so often the whole class looks as if we have dropped the discussion to play charades and demonstrate "scratching."

Renaming everything may be annoying, but it's harmless. More irksome is the professors' refusal to give us any guidelines or deadlines for our work. "There *are* boundaries," Gary assures us. "I just don't know where they are."

One of their "learning suggestions" is a reading list of three dozen books. Our professors seem particularly impressed by Peter McLaren's *Life in Schools*. McLaren writes that disenfranchised students "are in drastic need of a 'critical pedagogy,' a new way of viewing schooling, that can enable them to analyze their oppression and to take new steps to redress the conditions that perpetuate it . . . Critical pedagogy is founded on the conviction that schooling for self- and social-empowerment is *ethi-*

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RETURN TO HURON HIGH

cally prior to a mastery of technical skills, which are primarily tied to the logic of the marketplace." In other words, preparing students for the revolution is better than teaching them to read or write. Call me a fascist, but I beg to differ.

The reading list does not include the education books I have found most inspiring, such as the story of Jaime Escalante, the remarkable inner-city Los Angeles calculus teacher featured in the movie, "Stand and Deliver." Samuel G. Freedman's *Small Victories* celebrates a similar success story in the Bronx, where Jessica Siegal cajoles, motivates, and nurtures a group of African-American English students to create an award-winning school newspaper.

Stella, however, will have none of it. On the margin of my book report on Escalante, she disparages the myth of "this math super-teacher stuff" and bemoans the attention he's received. As for Jessica Siegal, she writes, "This book mainly made me think of what neurotic desires were satisfied by Jessica's living out the 'teacher as all-sacrificing mother' metaphor."

So much for heroes.

That's not all that hits the floor in MAC. Gary and Stella label traditional teaching concepts like discipline, subject knowledge, and behavioral consequences "severe and old-fashioned." Stella frequently reiterates her beliefs that "schools are *designed* to perpetuate the differences in class and race" and that "the idea that hard work will open opportunities for students is a myth." She seems incredulous that "there are actually teachers out there who believe transmitting knowledge is their primary goal."

The professors frequently assure us that "we're not trying to force a certain ideology on you." But those of us who've dared to object have been shot down so often we've fallen silent, leaving the classroom discussions to those who spout the party line.

Watching all this with increasing dismay, I realize that I'm witnessing a basic schism among education critics. One side believes schools have to be reformed because they're oppressive; the other feels the schools need fixing because they foster mediocrity. Because I'm in the latter group, I'm on the outside looking in.

NOVEMBER

The long-unanswered question Gary posited at my interview, "How do you learn best?" finally got a dent tonight. Not in Gary's class, but in my teaching methods seminar. The professor, Terri Epstein, hands out a four-page syllabus that is a model of structure and clear expectations. Clear expectations, she tells us, are among the "absolutes of good teaching." Once Terri ascertains that we all follow her, she says, "Good, now it's time to discuss lesson plans."

"Yeah, something I can *use*!" one of my classmates blurts out.

"All lesson plans should have an objective," Terri says. "For example, 'At the end of this lesson, my students will know the three principal causes for the Civil War.' Hey, that's great," she says. "But how will *I* know if *you* know? You need feedback, obviously, such as 'The student will *state* the three main reasons for the Civil War.'

"When creating good lesson plans, objectives are important, structure is very important—kids actually *like* it—and feedback is important," Terri tells us. "It's usually best to start with lower skills like knowledge transmission and work up to higher skills, like comparing Martin Luther King's approach to that of Malcolm X."

The professors correct us if we use terms like "right," "wrong," "good," "bad," "success," "failure," even "effective." We have learned to put any word that might suggest a value judgment between quotation marks.

In just one paragraph, Terri has provided a huge block for my teaching foundation. Higher skills are built on lower skills—a concept as obvious as it is ignored by most education experts. I watch my classmates scratch this stuff down, something I rarely see happening in Gary's class.

Terri then introduces the concept of prior knowledge as the key to learning new things. It's not as silly as it sounds. The point is that teachers tend to forget just how foreign their material looks to students facing it for the first time. The secret to genuinely understanding something is to internalize it. And the key to internalizing it is to connect it to something we already know, much the way we learn new words by defining them with familiar words.

Without even knowing it, Terri has forced me to completely revise my inaugural lesson plan, which is on the Declaration of Independence. Instead of simply lecturing to the class from a bunch of books, I'm determined to forge a connection between the 217-year-old document and their adolescent lives. I'll know tomorrow if the gamble paid off.

I will finally be at the front of Room 6202 today. I've put twenty-plus hours of research and writing into my fifty-two-minute lesson. If I get eaten alive, it won't be for lack of preparation. My three-page outline (chopped down from five) is a chockablock lecture with a small wrinkle at the end—if I have the guts to use it.

I put on my blue blazer, khaki pants, and red paisley tie, and arrive at the school an hour early. I write an outline on the board, with "The Constitution" across the top, and get myself settled. Before class begins, I check my fly three times.

Rodgie takes attendance for me, the bell rings, and I leave the gate like a preservice teacher out of hell. My notes have commas and periods—but you'd never know that from my rapid-fire delivery. Within minutes, I'm babbling on about the Continental Congress. Most of the students just stare at me, puzzled.

Afraid of losing them, I blow past the first page of my outline and skip to the dispute between the king and the colonists. I compare it to a lovers' tiff that quickly escalates into divorce proceedings—an analogy most teenagers know firsthand. I can see I've finally caught their attention. This gives me enough confidence to read Patrick Henry's quote with passion:

> Is life so dear or peace so sweet to be purchased at the price of chains? I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!

Somehow, adopting another persona frees me. From that point on I start putting on a show instead of just giving a lecture. I launch enthusiastically into a biography of Thomas Jefferson. As bait, I ask the kids if they've ever been to a restaurant with swivel stools. "Well," I explain with bravado, "our man TJ invented that. So next time you put your baggy butt down on a spinning chair, you can thank your third president for the ride."

That earns me enough goodwill to discuss the man himself. I tell them that Jefferson was from a well-off family, that because his sister was mentally retarded he was determined to be perceived as smart, that his dad died when TJ was just fourteen, that his mom didn't appreciate his talk of rebellion one bit, and that he tried to seduce a good friend's wife.

Now I'm talking their language, though at 78 rpm. I sneak a look at the clock—oh man, twenty-five minutes left! I skip another half-page of my outline.

I tell them Jefferson was a proper man who established the presidential tradition of informality, demanding that his constituents shake his hand instead of bow. "In fact," I say, "his hatred of formality is just one part of his deep distrust of royalty, especially English royalty. He believed that if the people didn't like the way they were being governed they had the right to object to it, and if that didn't work, they could abolish it altogether."

I take a deep breath, and test Terri's theory. "It'd be like you going home to your parents tonight and saying, 'I don't like the way you run this house so I'm taking over.' Then you could order pizza every night, drive the car to friends' parties, and stay over without calling home. TJ wasn't some stuffy historical figure, he was a radical!"

"Wow, radical, maaan," says Luke, making a peace sign as he speaks. With his skinny body and long wavy hair, he looks like a 1990's Peter Frampton, perfect for the line he's just delivered. The class loves it, and as I laugh with them, I notice Luke is actually taking notes.

"He not only told his countrymen, 'This blows, we're taking over,' he wrote down all the reasons *why* and then sent it around so the whole world could read it."

I pause, my first break in the entire hour. Ten minutes left. I still have that small trick in my bag and now I'm debating whether to use it. Seeing Luke taking notes inspires me to give it a shot.

"Anyone ever run away from home?" I ask. A few giggle. "Did you write a note to your parents?" A handful have. "It's got nothing to do with history, but I'm curious, what'd it say?"

Luke pipes right up. "I wrote 'em a note saying our refrigerator is bogus," he says, "so I'm going to the Hogans' because they got better food." The class bursts out laughing.

"Well, same basic idea here," I cut in, not confident enough to let the laughter die on its own. "TJ felt if he was going to flip off the mother country, as it were, he'd better explain why. His reasons were a little more complicated than better food—though it occurs to me English food is pretty bad. What were his reasons?"

Enough students tick off the colonists' major protests that my only task is to reinforce the better answers. "You got it," I say. I snatch their answers and keep running. "So he wrote all this down in what? Riiiight, the *Declaration of Independence.* That's all it *is,* just a runaway note—except TJ and his buddies never went back to mom and dad.

"He wrote the thing at age thirty-three in just eighteen days, and it's served as the blueprint for almost every major revolution since. Even the Black Panthers in the sixties copied TJ's language when they declared themselves opposed to the current government." I don't know if they have any idea who the Black Panthers were, but I'm not about to stop now to ask.

"The Declaration is designed to do three things," I say. For once, I use a stronger, slower voice for emphasis. "One, give our theory of government—that if you don't like it, you can change it; two, provide a list of complaints against King

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George III; and three, give the world a statement that they could judge for themselves." I repeat all three to make sure everyone gets them down, then resume my breakneck pace.

"This is an *amazing document,* people! It introduced human rights, democracy, and the idea of a 'righteous revolution'—all new ideas back then. It said a government *better have* the consent of the governed, or we'll abolish it. It's not American history, it's world history!" As the clock winds down, the internal spigot controlling my adrenaline is turned wide open, my face is red, and I am oblivious to everything and everyone in my way.

"A great document, sure!" I say. "But it has two fateful omissions: blacks and women. Sound familiar? Well, it all starts here on July 4, 1776—our first day as a nation. Jefferson wanted a paragraph in the D of I regarding slavery. He wrote, 'The whole commerce between master and slave is . . . the most degrading submission. . . . Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed their only firm basis?'

"But the other representatives cut it out—why? Think now. Lenny!"

"Because the Southern states wouldn't sign it," says Lenny, the Megadeth kid from a few weeks back.

"You got it—they were trying to bond the country together, and they feared that would tear them apart. But TJ knew what was coming. In his own writing he admitted"—I assume an ominous voice again—" 'I fear for my country when I reflect that God is just.' Meaning what?"

"He knows it's wrong, and God is gonna punish 'em," Lenny says, to my surprise.

"Exactly right, Lenny. Exactly right." I am getting light-headed, sucking in too much of the ether too fast.

"Women were also ignored," I continue, rushing to finish in the five minutes I have left. " 'All men are created equal,' it says, right? Well, Abigail Adams wrote to her husband John Adams—who became our second president—before they all sat down to write out the legal plans for this breakaway nation. Here's what she said:

> In the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited powers into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular

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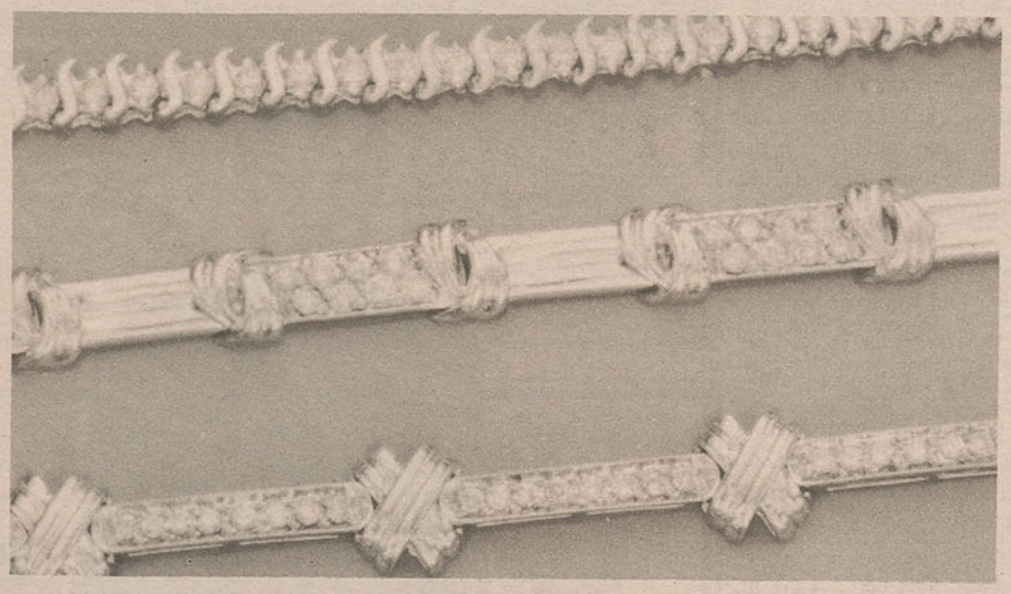

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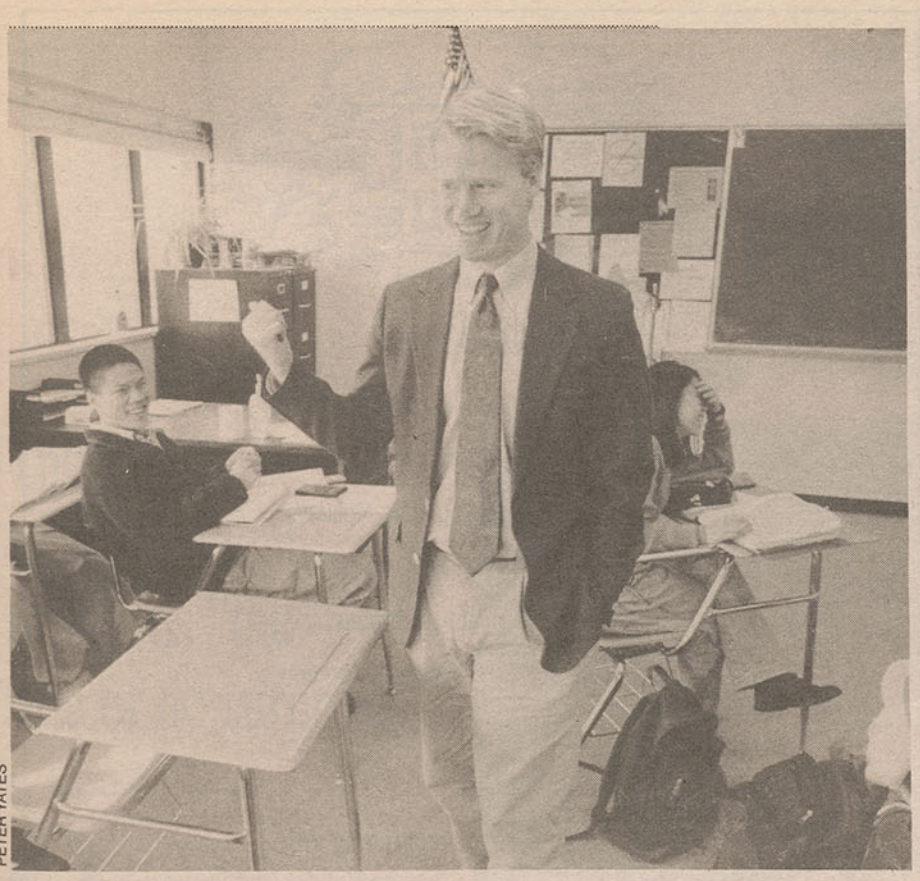

PETER YATES

> care and attention is not paid to the Ladies, we are determined to form a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice, or representation."

The women in class hoot and holler for Abigail. "Don't laugh yet!" I caution. "What d'ya suppose he said?"

"He didn't do it," one says.

"He said he would, then didn't," another guesses.

"He probably just lied to her," says a third.

I grin a sinister grin. "Listen to this . . . Adams wrote back: 'We know better than to repeal our masculine systems. Depend upon it.'"

"The guy's a snake!"

"I can't believe he just came out and said that!"

"Neither could Abigail, I bet," I say. "He blew it, they blew it—but the Declaration of Independence is still one of the most incredible documents in the world—they wrote out a blueprint for a revolution and a whole new country in just a few pages that still works two hundred years later—but don't forget those two fateful omissions that would keep tearing us apart all that time."

One minute left—I skip right to the close.

"Jefferson and John Adams—the second president we just talked about—were both deathly ill in late June 1826—but both were trying desperately to hang on. They managed—"

The bell rings. *Crap!*

"Hang on! One sec!" I say, throwing up both hands. "They managed to last just a few days into July. Jefferson's last words were, 'Is it the Fourth?' and when they said 'yes,' he died—same day as John Adams, both on the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence!"

My face is flushed. I'm dying for a cigarette—and I don't even smoke. As I say those final words I make a sweeping motion toward the board, pointing to—*Keeeeeeeerrist!*—"The Constitution."

I'd written the wrong title at the top of my outline!

"Wait—stop—forget that!" I say as the kids hurriedly pack up. "We talked about the *Declaration of Independence* today, not the Constitution! Promise!" The few kids who are still there get a chuckle.

Rodgie comes up and bats me on the head with some rolled up handouts. "You dodo!" he says. Later he tells me that mine is the best job he's seen anyone do on their first day, but he might have been trying to get me over my big mistake. The ultimate judge, of course, is my obsessive psyche.

The rest of the day, I exhale. Sure, I agonize over the lesson, but for the most part, I look at the hour with a clear mind. It wasn't perfect, not by a long shot, and I certainly know that. I tried to cover way too much and went too fast—I blitzed past them. I assumed that if I said it, it was up to them to understand it. Perhaps worst of all, I was far more concerned with my own well-being than theirs.

But the goal was survival, and I have survived. At times, I even gloat. In those rare moments when I'd actually looked at the students, they seemed interested, they were taking notes, and they even laughed at some of the jokes. They appeared to leave class with a little more energy than when they'd arrived. I feel terrified, exhilarated, and relieved.

I've passed the first test.

I made a hundred more mistakes that year, but for every screwup, those kids gave me ten moments that convinced me the whole thing was worth it. When we said good-bye to Room 6202 that spring, I had only partially answered the all-important question, "How do we learn?" and I had completely failed to get a teaching job in Ann Arbor. But I still run into my students around town, and I've never regretted the year I returned to Huron High. ■

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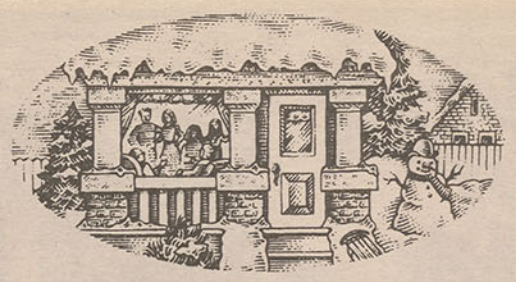

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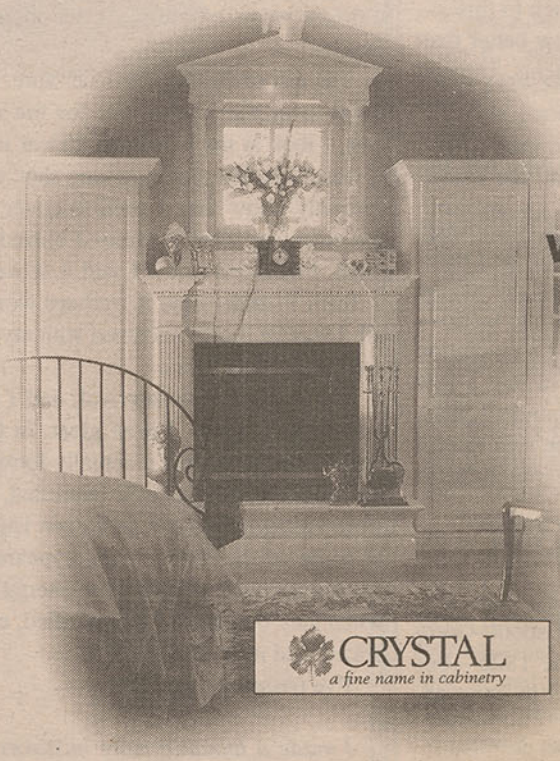

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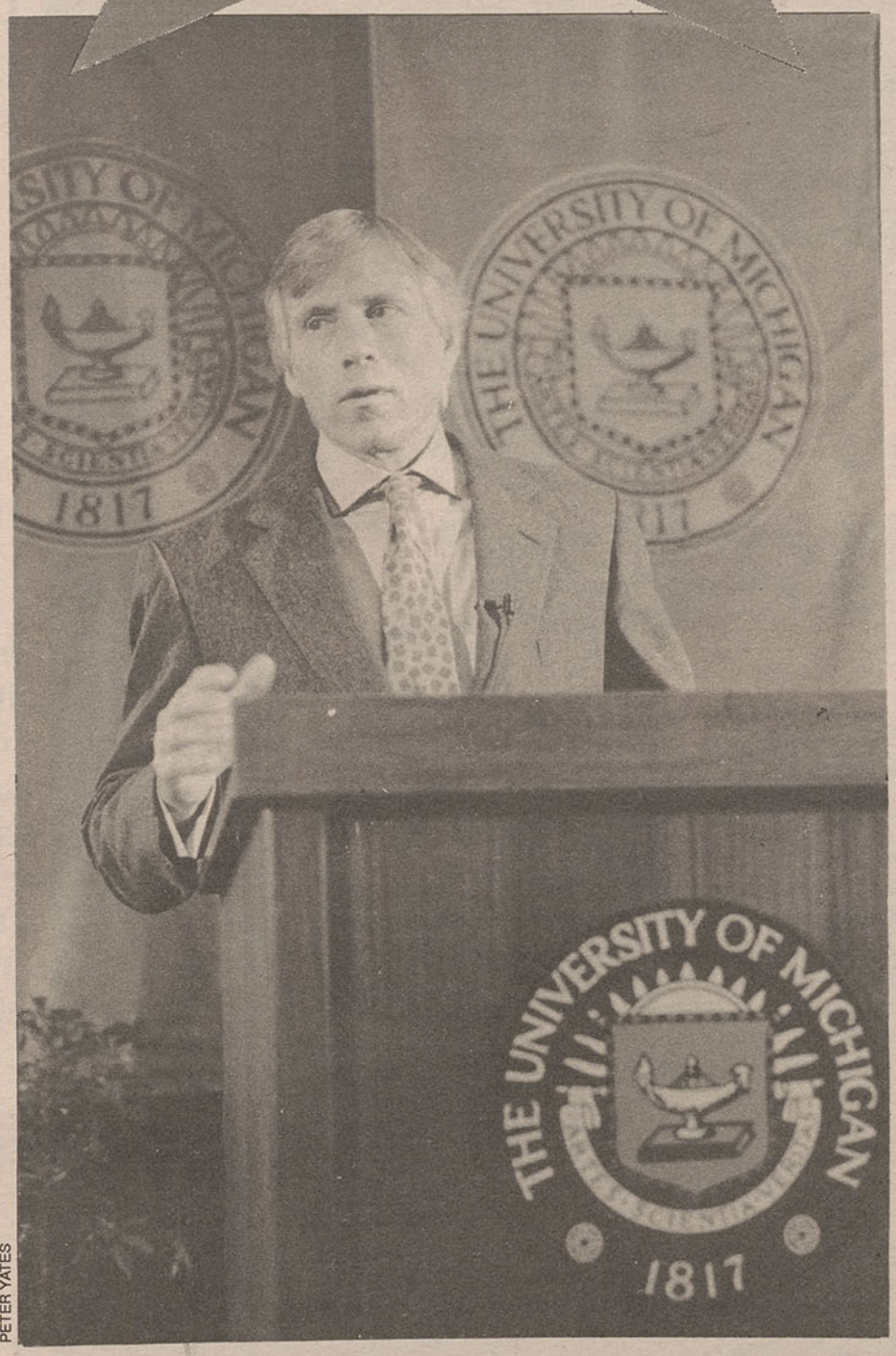

PETER YATES

The U-M's next president promises "the rule of no surprises."

by Michael Betzold

On a bench outside the Regents' Room, Deane Baker seemed exhausted. No wonder. For two decades, the U-M's most outspoken conservative had been swimming against the tide. On this day, both his fellow regents and Michigan voters were washing over him.

Baker's complaint was ironic. He argued that, in rallying around Lee Bollinger to be its twelfth president, the U-M community was being too conservative. "People don't want change," groused Baker. "They want known quantities. Particularly university people. The university may have liberal inhabitants, but the university is a very conservative institution, afraid of change."

In public interviews, Bollinger, the noted First Amendment scholar and former U-M Law School dean, had been nothing if not reassuring. "The rule of no surprises of course applies," the unfailingly amiable Bollinger had said. He was referring to presidential-regental relationships, but he could have been talking about his entire candidacy.

Candidate Bollinger was full of goodwill, wit, and razor-sharp intelligence. His accomplishments at the U-M and as provost of Dartmouth College were impeccable. Yet he laid out no discernible agenda for the university. "I don't think there's a need for any kind of radical change in what is being done," he said. "The basic thing we are doing is just great, it needs to be articulated but there's nothing I think that needs to be cut."

With the exception of Baker, that idea seemed to suit the regents just fine. What the university needed more than anything else, regent Phil Power said, was a fence-mender. "The new president has a lot of healing to do," Power said. Bollinger clearly was the doctor who was ordered: The former U-M law dean knew the patient thoroughly, recognized what ailed it, and provided soothing verbal balm. Bollinger promised faculty that he "would fight as hard as I possibly could to maintain tenure." He spoke of his desire for "a revitalization of the dean as the heart of the power structure of the university." And he praised the regents themselves, saying, "One of the earliest messages I got was that this university had achieved its greatness in part because of the regents."

A bunker mentality

To all outward appearances, the U-M's eleventh president left the university in superb condition. Jim Duderstadt's building program invigorated the campus physical plant. His fund-raising greatly increased the university's endowment. His Michigan Mandate and Agenda for Women made the U-M a national leader on diversity issues.

Other than Baker's lone voice against the politically correct agenda, the regents never challenged Duderstadt's basic direction. A buyout of a football coach, even a secret delivery of golden parachutes to his executive team: these were turf battles, not disputes over fundamental priorities. But they were embarrassing—especially when the regents learned about them from the *Ann Arbor News* rather than from Duderstadt himself.

The ultimate humiliation came last November, when *News* reporter Steve Cain used the Michigan Freedom of Information Act to demonstrate that anger with the regents was behind Duderstadt's abrupt decision to resign. The *News*, backed by the Detroit dailies, then demanded a highly public process to select his successor. Excluded when Duderstadt was hired, the papers had won an injunction requiring that future regental meetings, even to hire a president, must be open to the public.

As a result, a bunker mentality enveloped the presidential search process. The papers argued, justifiably, that the most important decision in determining the university's direction must be open to the public. But a strict application of the state Open Meetings Act would make hiring virtually impossible because identifying candidates publicly would jeopardize their present jobs.

To get around that problem, the regents set up a two-stage search process. All the preliminary screening was done privately by a search committee they appointed. The committee then submitted a handful of finalists who were willing to be interviewed publicly. Not surprisingly, no sitting university president appeared on that list when it was released in October.

Arguably, a less public search could have provided regents and candidates more wiggle room. In private, dirty laundry could have been aired and windows thrown open to new breezes. But there were no signs that searchers were looking to break the mold. The composition of the search committee and the conduct of the public forums and focus groups *all* followed the rule of no surprises.

Dance of the provosts

As expected, the search committee's list was composed of provosts. Were it not for a second legal challenge by the newspapers late in the game, it also would have included a dean, U-M's Edie Goldenberg. Goldenberg withdrew when she learned she would not be able to meet privately with the regents. The four remaining candidates were surprising only in their lack of diversity: three men, one woman, all white, all in their early fifties, all rising stars with strong academic credentials, and all people that seasoned faculty could identify with as outstanding peers.

The three outsiders clearly were at a disadvantage, relying primarily on newspaper stories or secondhand information to parse the squabbles between the regents and Duderstadt. (The regents had planned to meet privately with the finalists and search committee after the list was submitted, but the newspapers successfully returned to court to forbid such meetings.) The outsiders had heard and read that the regents were a prickly, contentious group. In public interviews, the regents disputed that portrayal at great length.

Only Bollinger—who had worked with Duderstadt and all the regents except Dan Horning and Andrea Fischer Newman—had any real understanding of the dispute; the others were understandably nervous about the terrain. University of Illinois provost Larry Faulkner, noting that under the open selection process it was hard "to get a sense of you and your personalities,"

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asked the regents directly "what the protocols will be, what the spheres of responsibility will be" between the board and the president. Although the regents assured him they were cordial and wanted only respect, the outsiders could only guess what constituted sufficient respect.

The three unknowns were also expected to leave a huge impression without stepping on any toes. And much like elephants wearing blinders at a crowded dance, missteps were inevitable. The first performer, Carol Christ of the University of California at Berkeley, spoke passionately—perhaps too passionately for some—in support of undergraduate education, vigorous tenure review, and more accessibility for in-state students. And she ended with a plea that may have sounded too challenging: "What I would want from everyone, were I to come here, is a willingness to take risks."

Stanley Chodorow, a scholar from the University of Pennsylvania, presented ambitious ideas for more hands-on learning, expanded research opportunities for undergraduates, and other new programs. A medievalist who enthused about high technology, Chodorow was engaging, but he encouraged suspicions that he was a closet elitist by telling regent Larry Deitch he doesn't like popular culture "because I don't find it interesting."

Faulkner played it safer, combining caution, amiability, and forthrightness. "Solid" was the word regents most used to describe him later. At the afternoon town meeting with Faulkner, law professor Catharine MacKinnon asked a question—which she framed as hypothetical—about a case of faculty sexual misconduct. She later told reporters that it was based on a real incident at Illinois. Faulkner denied knowing of any current case that matched the "facts" MacKinnon described. But for some, the failure to connect her query to his own campus cast a cloud over his candidacy.

Insider's edge

As U-M law dean from 1987 to 1994, Bollinger had hired MacKinnon, academia's most controversial feminist. When students subsequently put on an exhibit that included photographs of prostitutes, MacKinnon charged that the images put women at the law school at risk of sexual assault. A student pulled the photos. Bollinger backed the removal against charges of censorship leveled by the American Civil Liberties Union.

While dean, Bollinger not only shared the core values that dominate the university, he, along with Duderstadt, helped to craft and promote them. Bollinger banned FBI and CIA recruiting at the law school and testified against Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork. During a time of racial turmoil, he hired a private consultant to interview every minority student and fer-

ret out problems. He helped draft an anti-hate speech code. As regent Deitch noted, "We promised our constituents to remain committed to diversity. The people on this campus know that nobody has a better track record on these policies than Lee Bollinger."

In fact, no other candidate could approach Bollinger's understanding of Michigan's culture. This understanding included an appreciation of the relationship between athletics and academics on campus that regent Shirley McFee contended "was impossible to get by osmosis." In sometimes wistful terms, Bollinger frequently reminded the regents that the campus they oversaw was his first and deepest love: "It's one of the greatest of universities and colleges in the country, in the world. . . . I know it, I love it, and I think it could do better."

Bollinger even offered the unusual view that the U-M suffers from an inferiority complex: "Michigan understates itself, the university, more than any top institution I know. . . . My strong view is that the educational opportunities at a very large institution like Michigan are at least as great as they are at a small, elite, private institution like Dartmouth."

There are urgent vacancies to fill at the top of the university administration and a medical center crisis to be addressed. The fact that Bollinger would need no prep time was a huge plus. As regent Nellie Varner said, Bollinger "knows Michigan, he understands its strengths, he can hit the ground running and move quickly and provide a confidence that says all is well at Michigan."

Bollinger promised he would find the right people to help him make things right. He portrayed many issues as, in essence, a matter of people skills. On relations with an increasingly hostile state government, Bollinger said, "So much of politics are human relations . . . getting to know people, seeing them regularly, having them to breakfast and lunch, and meeting people."

When Newman insisted that the U-M needed some solid business thinking, Bollinger readily admitted, "The fact is, I am simply not a high-powered businessperson." But he promised to find the support he needed. Against fiscal concerns, he invoked a classical liberal-arts ethos: "To create the excitement in a human being, what it means to be able to pick up a play of Shakespeare and read some lines and feel chills in your body or to read a great poem, I mean that's something that I think is just beyond, beyond costs. Are we doing that for students?" His performance appeared to enchant all the regents except Baker, who viewed his testimony against Bork as treasonous, and Newman, who preferred Faulkner's managerial acumen to Bollinger's delegating skills.

An outpouring of support

The regents deliberated for more than a week. They were barred from reviewing the advisory committee's confidential materials or talking to its chairman, Jeffrey Lehman—a Bollinger hire who had succeeded him as law school dean. But they did hear from plenty of Michigan stalwarts who supported Bollinger.

Duderstadt might never have become U-M president if Deane Baker had not sabotaged the nomination of New York Library president Vartan Gregorian (the other regents' favorite) by twice phoning Gregorian and threatening to politicize his candidacy. Baker couldn't do that this time. Instead, when the regents convened on election day and quickly coalesced around Bollinger, Baker threw a public tantrum. He complained of a "very heavy-handed political campaign to put Lee Bollinger in office" and implied the candidate himself had orchestrated it. "I find it hard to believe that Lee Bollinger didn't know about this massive effort to make him president," said Baker. Asked afterward whether he had any evidence for Bollinger's complicity, Baker admitted he didn't.

Other regents saw the phone calls, faxes, and E-mail messages simply as evidence that Bollinger was well-respected. The outpouring of support buttressed their view of him as an insider who could work with all parties to start the healing process.

"I too was bombarded by people in support of Lee Bollinger," said Horning, "people I respect and admire and who have to work with this man." Horning, a conservative Republican who described himself in one session as a member of "the West Michigan Dutch Mafia," clinched the vote for Bollinger.

In sometimes wistful terms, Bollinger frequently reminded the regents that the campus they oversaw was his first and deepest love: "It's one of the greatest of universities and colleges in the country, in the world. . . . I know it, I love it, and I think it could do better."

Bucking the consensus as always, Deane Baker contended that it was time for an outsider to take the reins, that perhaps some surprises were in order. Bollinger is the third consecutive insider to become Michigan's president. There is a danger, Baker observed, that the university is becoming too insular. Sitting outside the Regents' Room after Bollinger's nomination, Baker pointed out regents, administrators, and faculty members shaking hands and slapping backs. "See? They all know him. They're all mutual friends."

But Baker, the black sheep of the university family, was about to be put out to pasture. He lost his bid for reelection the same day. And elsewhere, Bollinger's nomination was hailed widely, not only across campus, but also among alumni and key U-M supporters. The overwhelming sense was that a favorite son was coming home. ■

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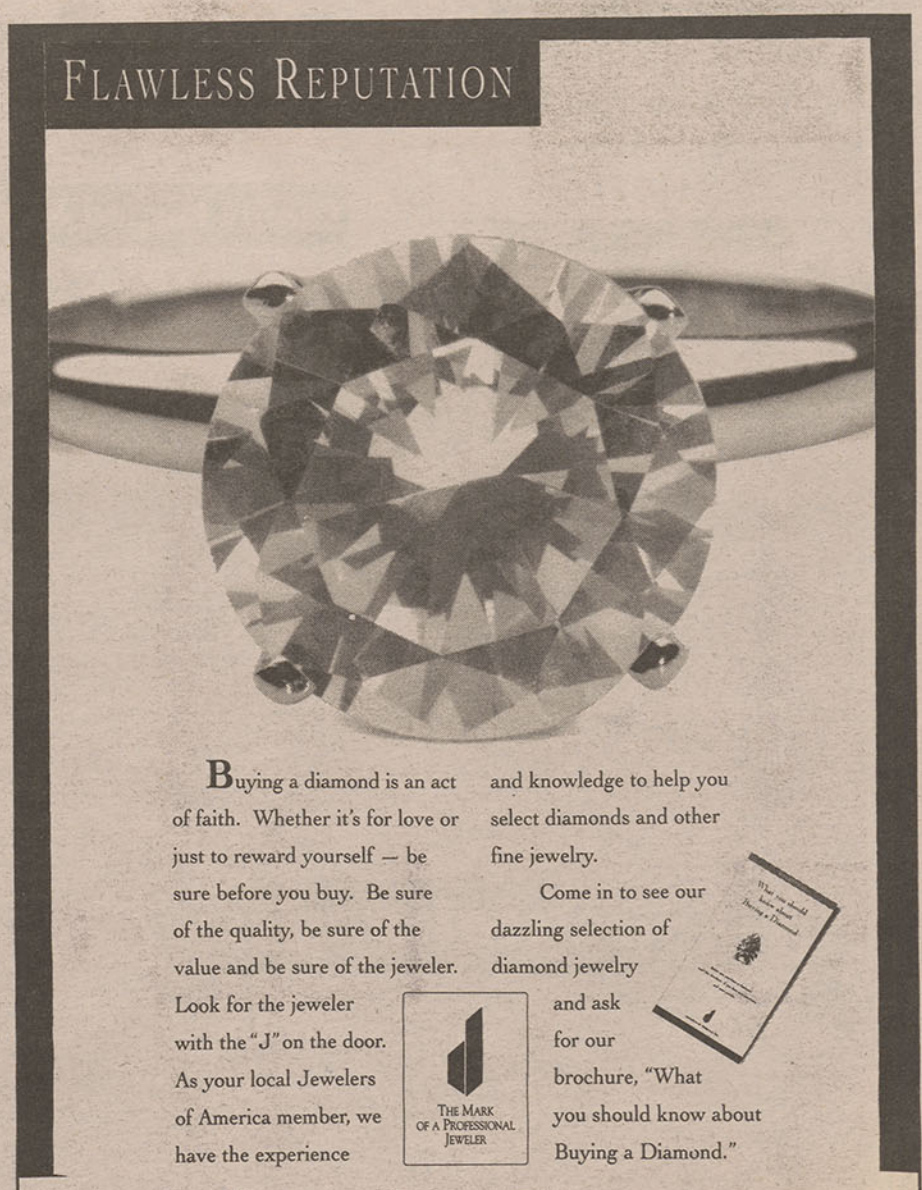
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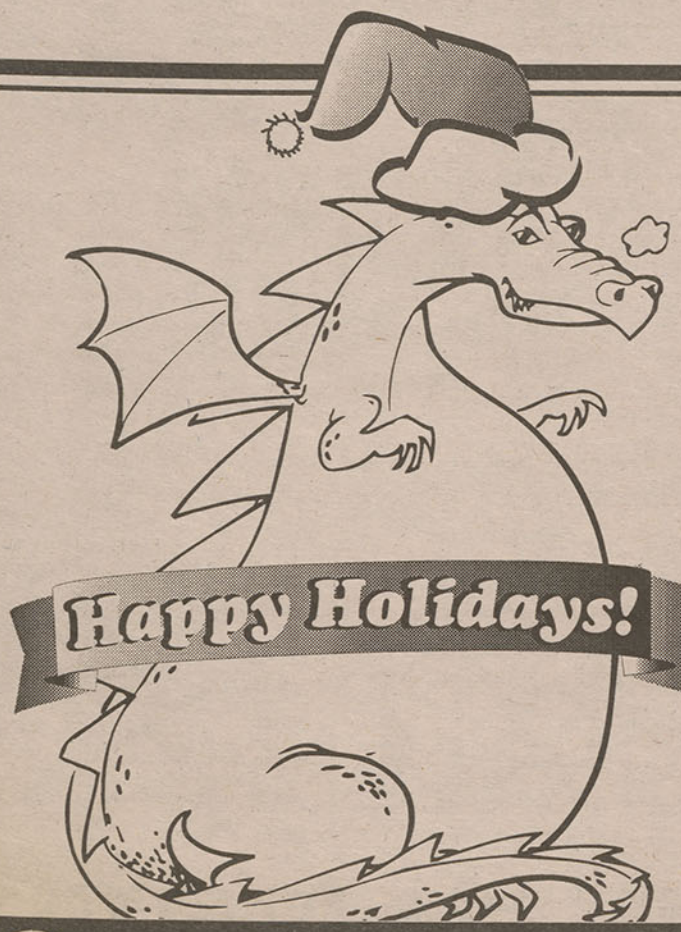

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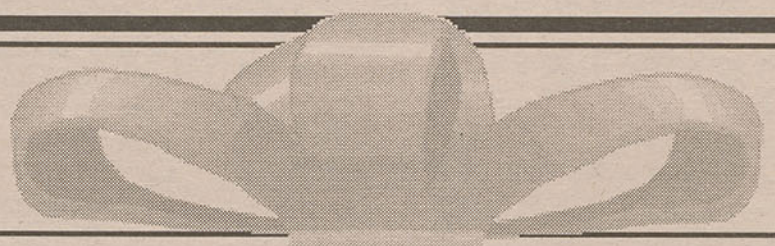

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The Playwrights

BY EVE SILBERMAN

Nothing may be harder to sell than a play. Five local dramatists tell why they stick with the toughest art of them all.

PETER YATES

OYAMO.

Nationally respected playwright and U-M theater instructor OyamO has occasionally written scripts for proposed movie treatments. But somehow films don't do it for him. There is nothing—but nothing—like the thrill of live theater, where "every moment is a 'take,'" he declares.

Unfortunately, there is also nothing—but nothing—like the discouragement of trying to write for the theater. Selling short stories is difficult, but at least there are hundreds of "little magazines" out there. Selling poetry is tough, but at least there are dozens of bookstores and coffeehouses that sponsor readings.

But writing plays? A playwright's dream, of course, is not to be read but to be performed. And live theater in America has been on a slow fade-out for the past forty years—beginning somewhere around the time TV sets began appearing in every American living room. While a national figure is difficult to obtain, only six new dramas were performed on Broadway in 1994–1995 compared to twenty-one in 1969–1970.

According to people in the theater scene, more new productions are performed in Ann Arbor than in any other Michigan city, except possibly Detroit. But even here, getting a play produced is a triumph against the odds. The Performance Network, virtually the only outlet in town for new theater, receives about seventy submissions a year. Last year, the Network put on thirteen new plays by local playwrights, most of whom essentially rented the theater in exchange for a percentage of the revenue.

But local playwrights struggle on. The five portrayed here have created dramas with subjects ranging from an aunt who committed suicide (Ari Roth's "Goodnight, Irene") to an explosive patient-therapist situation (Rachel Urist's "The Talking Cure"). They have had their plays produced locally and, in some cases, nationally. But the struggles and little, if any, monetary compensation are worth it, all say, for those moments when their visions light up the stage and become "real" in the eyes of others.

OyamO: *rooted in theater*

First, there is that name to explain. His driver's license says Charles Gordon. The name on his plays is OyamO.

The frequently performed playwright and U-M theater professor is obliging, as though he hadn't given the explanation dozens of times over the past twenty-five years. "It's not African, it's not Japanese," he says. The name was given to him in the late 1960's when he was teaching a group of kids in his Harlem neighborhood how to play drums. "One day they saw me wearing a T-shirt that says 'Miami [University] of Ohio.' Miami of Ohio eventually became Miyamo, OyamO, whatever." He adopted the name professionally to avoid confusion with now deceased playwright Charles Gordone, who won a Pulitzer Prize for "No Place to Be Somebody."

Writing as OyamO, the Lorain, Ohio, native has enjoyed a solid, if not spectacular, career. His plays have been performed at theater strongholds such as the Manhattan Theater Club, the Yale Repertory Theatre, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. His most recent play, "I Am a Man," was praised as "mercilessly intelligent" by the *Washington Post*. It deals with the 1968 Memphis sanitation workers' strike during the months prior to Martin Luther King's visit to the city and subsequent assassination—the day after he delivered a speech supporting the strike. Performed locally at U-M's Trueblood Theater a year ago, the play will be put on at Meadow Brook next spring.

Although OyamO fictionalized some events, the play was based on prodigious research (he lugged home sixty boxes of photocopied material from the University of Memphis library). He talks feelingly about the play's forlorn hero, local strike organizer T. O. Jones. "He struggled against odds that were absolutely impossible! And yet, when the big-time people came down—the ministers, the civil rights organizations, the Martin Luther King group—he just got sort of whoo! pushed way off to the side . . . they looked down on him."

OyamO never met Jones, who died several years ago, but Jones's son came to a well-attended production in Memphis and afterward told a reporter, "It's not what happened, but it is the truth."

No compliment could have pleased the playwright more. "The point is, I looked for the essence of the truth!" he exclaims. "Because I lived through that era. I was around when Martin Luther King was killed. . . . I had been down South and done some voter registration work. I was around in New York when the [Black] Panthers were supreme. . . . We were very young. We had hoped we could make America a better place. Everyone just wanted something to change!

"I wish every generation would stand up for some kind of ideals."

OyamO's passion does not erupt the minute you meet him. Appearing much younger than his fifty-two years, he's a slim man with an open, engaging manner and a smile that embraces. His charisma explains how, as a black kid in a predominantly white high school, he was elected president of the student council and chosen editor of the school paper.

His writing is shaped by the dramas that played themselves out in the 1960's. "When I spent time in Louisiana and realized that hundreds and thousands of my people had been kept from voting, through intimidation . . . I thought to myself, 'Why should I fight for a country that won't even put its all-out effort into seeing that my people are allowed to exercise their lawful right to vote?'" While serving in the Naval Reserves, he told his superior, "I want to learn everything I can about military tactics so I can help start the revolution." (He was given an honorable discharge.)

Politics and theater melded when OyamO moved to New York in the mid-1960's; he helped found the former Black Theatre Workshop in Harlem and also wrote and acted in plays there. Married in 1968, he sup-

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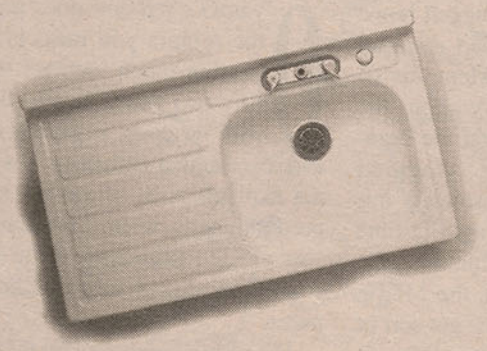

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Rachel Urist:
from critic to playwright

After writing her first play almost eighteen years ago, Rachel Urist was more than hooked: she was obsessed. Long after her kids and husband were in bed, she would stay up to work on plays. "I would sleep for an hour a night," she recalls. "I was fueled by all the writing. . . . Every six months, I'd end up with a hundred and five, hundred and six degree fever. I was delirious once."

Today, Rachel (pronounced, as in Hebrew, RU-khl) Urist is still driven, but at a more moderate tempo. The former U-M grad student in comparative literature, wife of U-M psychologist Jeff Urist, and mother of three (one in grade school, one in high school, and one at the U-M) writes during the day and makes sure she gets a good night's sleep. "I don't think that was healthy," she says of her earlier obsessiveness.

Still, all the hours spent not only writing her plays but also slapping them into envelopes and mailing them out have paid off. Urist is probably the most widely produced local playwright not affiliated with a university. Several of her twenty plays have been performed both in Ann Arbor and outside the city. Last month, "Luck of the Draw" was given a staged reading at the Performance Network. Urist has won three national playwriting contests and

ported himself and a growing family by doing everything from washing dishes to teaching karate. Finally, he earned his B.A. from the College of New Rochelle in 1979 and his M.F.A. in playwriting from Yale University in 1981. He started teaching at the U-M in 1990; he's currently up for tenure.

OyamO's thirty-some plays include "The Resurrection of Lady Lester," a tribute to jazz artist Lester Young, and "The Temple of Doom," a "rap musical." But while humor and musicality have their place in his work, the recurring theme is race relations in America—from his early "Breakout," a somewhat surreal drama about two black inmates harassed by a white guard, to his current project, "Pink and Say." Commissioned by the Seattle Children's Theatre, the work in progress deals with the friendship of two soldiers, one black, one white, during the Civil War.

The playwright, who is widowed and the father of five adult children, prefers to keep a low profile both on campus and in the local theater community. Recently settled into the first house he's ever owned, he writes for hours when not in class.

OyamO does not share the scriptwriting fever of some of his students who yearn to conquer Hollywood. He revised "I Am a Man" for HBO, but the project was canned after a reshuffling of network personnel. He shrugs when he discusses the experience. "They paid me all that money," he says.

"I'm rooted in the theater," he emphasizes. "That's my home."

was selected to be an artist-in-residence at the Mount Sequoyah New Play Retreat at the University of Arkansas. *Ann Arbor News* critic Chris Potter has described her as the "one bona fide genius" in the local theater scene.

In her late forties, with dark brown hair falling to her shoulders, Urist possesses a richly cadenced voice and a basic intensity. She frequently acts and directs in addition to writing. Urist grew up in New York City where she "danced and performed a great deal." In a more subtle and complicated way, she sees herself as a "performer" since her childhood: As the daughter of a rabbi, she and her three sisters "were expected to serve as role models for the community," Urist writes in an autobiographical sketch. "We knew how to sit still—or stand—and smile and nod agreeably and look pretty for the public. Our mother would stay up till three in the morning ironing our little dresses . . ."

Several of Urist's plays draw on her Jewish background. Her most widely performed play is "Shtetl Tales," an often humorous retelling of Jewish folktales. (A shtetl was a Jewish village in prewar Eastern Europe.) Another play, "Blueprints," is a modernization of three biblical tales, including the story of Abraham and Isaac.

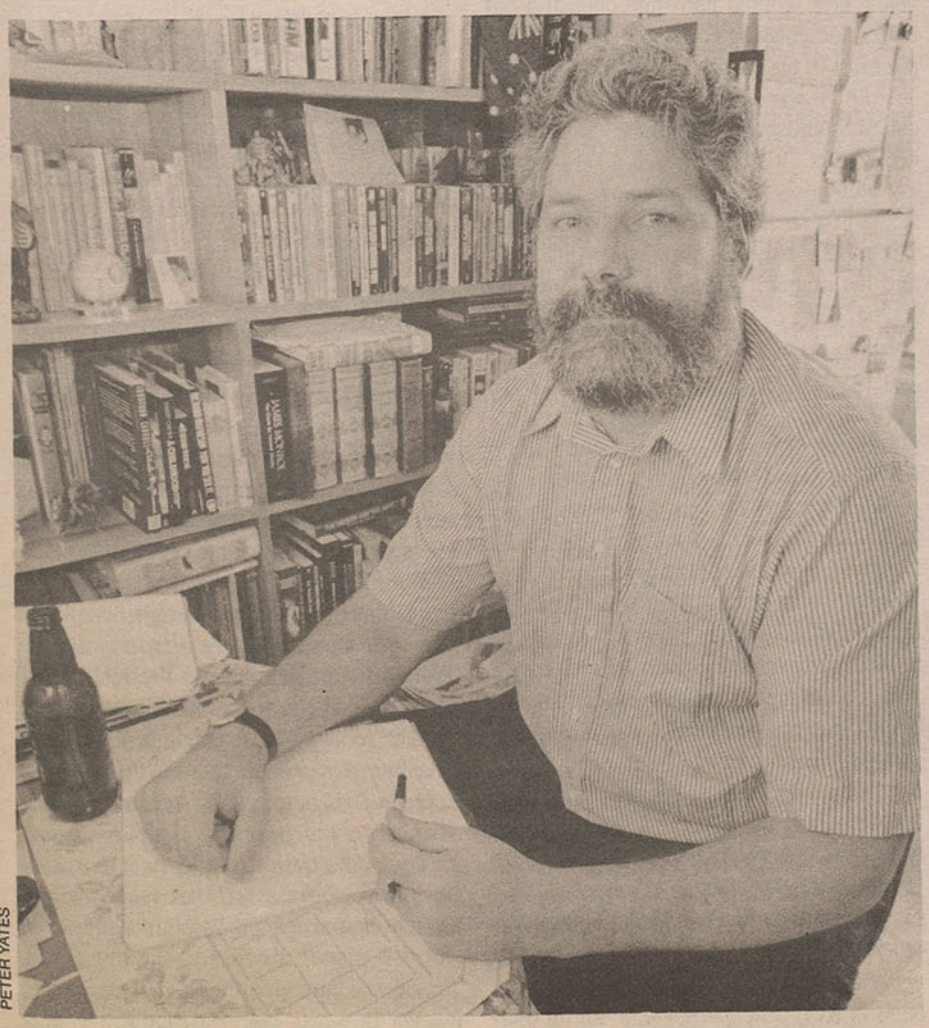
Other Urist plays concern contemporary women struggling with issues of work, relationships, and success. Urist turns cryptic when asked to discuss the themes of her plays. "It might take the mystery out of them," she declares. However, in the autobiographical musings that she shares, she is absorbed with the theme of friendship, writing, "Friendship among women is the search for the good mother; the protector."

Her play "The Talking Cure" depicts two contemporary women, their friendship, and their relationships with their therapists. (This past year, "The Talking Cure" was performed at the Performance Network and as "Reader's Theater" through EMU's Lifespan Learning programs.) In the play, lonely Ginny is jealous of best friend Meg, who seems to have it all—successful career, loving husband, and kids. Meg is in therapy because "I want to believe myself when I say I'm a happily married woman." But her confidence unravels as she is "treated" by a bullying male therapist who has designs on more than her mind. After the Reader's Theater show, Urist explained that she hopes the play will help publicize the "egregious" problem of therapists who "sexually harass their patients."

Rachel and Jeff Urist came to Ann Arbor in 1969; Rachel received her M.A. in comparative literature at the U-M in 1970. She lectured at the U-M for several years, and later, as Rachelle Urist ("I use different names depending on my moods"), reviewed plays for the *Ann Arbor News*. Urist's own playwriting career began in 1978 when a friend asked her to write a play with her. "The play we wrote together was dreadful!" she says. But Urist realized she had "an ear for dialogue" and was launched.

Urist has learned that marketing your own plays is almost a career in itself. Over the years, she has sent out hundreds of manuscripts. Several years ago, she was excited when a well-known theatrical agent agreed to represent her. But the experience ended in a stormy scene during which the agent confessed she hadn't sent out any manuscripts.

Relaxing in her large, airy house, which combines modernistic furniture with a



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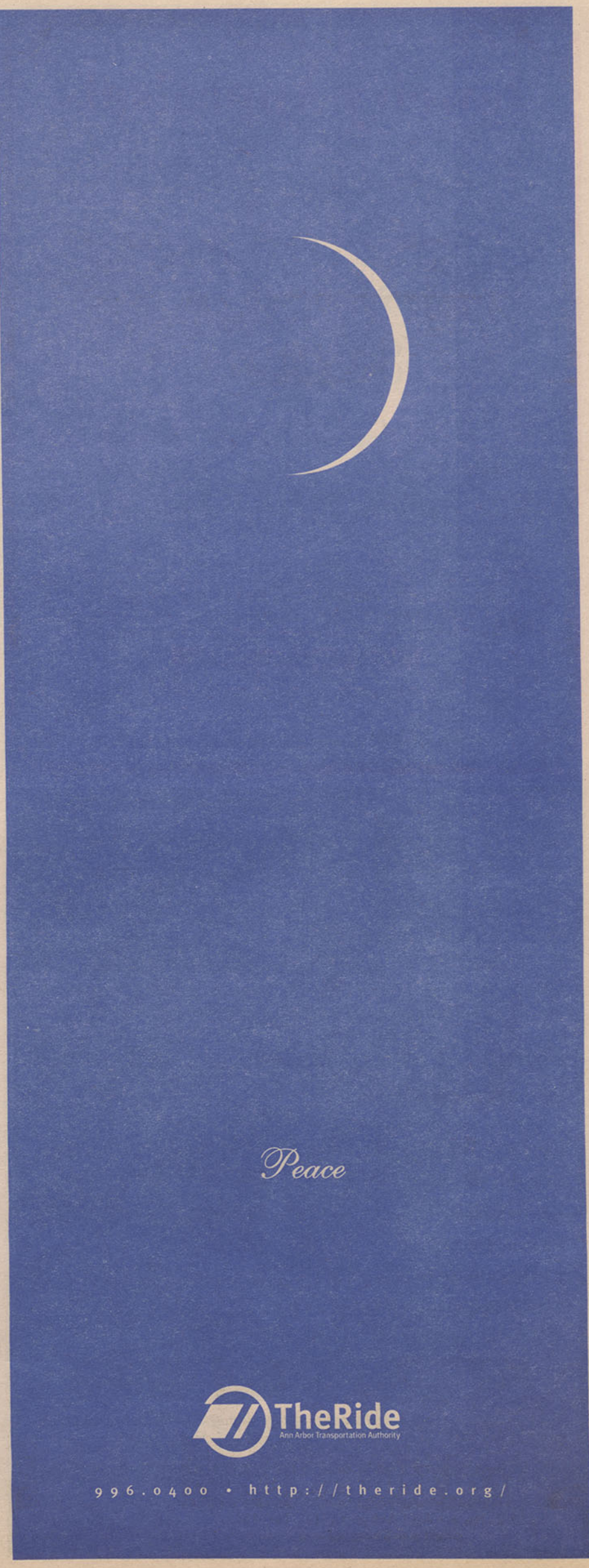

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wood-burning stove, Urist confesses that, gratifying as her successes have been, she yearns for more recognition. She recalls that ten years ago, a U-M grad named Jeff Sellers directed productions of "Shtetl Tales" in both Ann Arbor and Southfield. Sellers has since achieved national acclaim as producer of the Broadway hit "Rent." Urist saw Sellers when she went to New York for the opening. "It's wonderful to see everyone going places," she says, a bit wistfully. "It will be nice to go places myself."

Al Sjoerdsma: *from the library to "Waynesville"*

"I've always had a hard time trying to market myself," says Al Sjoerdsma. Not lately, though. The playwright and Ann Arbor District Library clerk mailed about eighteen plays to assorted competitions and theaters earlier this fall—more than he'd sent out all last year. One day, Sjoerdsma (pronounced SHERD-sma) went out and bought 100 first-class stamps; another day, he sent his application to the Dramatists Guild (the national organization for playwrights). It was something he'd been meaning to do for more than a decade.

Two things explain this sudden burst of productivity. First, Sjoerdsma's hours at the library were cut from thirty a week to nineteen. Second, he realized that his next birthday, in May 1997, would be his fortieth.

Bearded and burly, the six-foot-one Sjoerdsma is the type of big guy who makes people forget his size because of his mild-as-milk demeanor. For the past fifteen years, he's worked part-time checking out books and entering computer data, but he's put most of his energy into his writing.

Ann Arbor News critic Chris Potter called Sjoerdsma's "Swing" a "Southwestern gothic." It's one play in a series dealing with noisy, emotionally turbulent characters in a small Texas town. "There's this fascinating discrepancy between his work and his manner," says fellow playwright Rachel Urist of Sjoerdsma. He possesses a "bizarre, wonderful sense of humor," says Joh Broughton, executive director of the Performance Network, which has produced five of his plays. Sjoerdsma will do a reading at the Network in January.

All but one of his produced plays are set in the fictional town of Waynesville, Texas. They are simultaneously grim and funny. The first in the series, "That'll Be the Day," consists of a series of vignettes centering around hardware salesman Roy Conway, who, on the night he awaits execution for a mysterious murder, relates the plot of the classic John Ford Western, "The Searchers." As Conway recites ("Comes to a point where the trail branches off. Ethan took it one way, had the youngsters go checkin' out the other . . ."), his wife and his girlfriend huddle together, hoping for a reprieve.

"Death Drinks a Beer" concerns an adult brother and sister still living in their childhood home, haunted by memories of their abusive, alcoholic father. "Swing" is about a sheriff and his troubled, loopy family. The final Waynesville play, "The Land of Lost Skies," features a relationship between a restaurant owner–waitress and the lost-soul son of the richest man in town.

Sjoerdsma, a native of Washington, D.C., has never been to Texas. He invented Waynesville, named after John Wayne, when an actor friend invited him to write a one-man show portraying a "singing cowboy." "I just sort of dreamed it up in my head," he says of the fabricated town's setting. He acknowledges being influenced by acclaimed playwright Preston Jones, who wrote three plays known as the "Texas Trilogy."

Recently Sjoerdsma has set Waynesville aside to explore new territory. Attempting to answer the question, What is art? led to his most recently produced play, "Get Out Your Gods." An ambitious, twenty-four-character work, it's based on the life of the extraordinarily gifted twentieth-century Dutch art forger, Han Van Meegeren.

Sjoerdsma's passion for playwriting began when he spent a year in high school in Switzerland, when his physician father and psychiatrist mother were living overseas. Sjoerdsma was assigned to write a short story. "I wrote some with lots of dialogue. He—my teacher—thought my dialogue was wonderful but my story needed work. I decided to try something that played to my strengths."

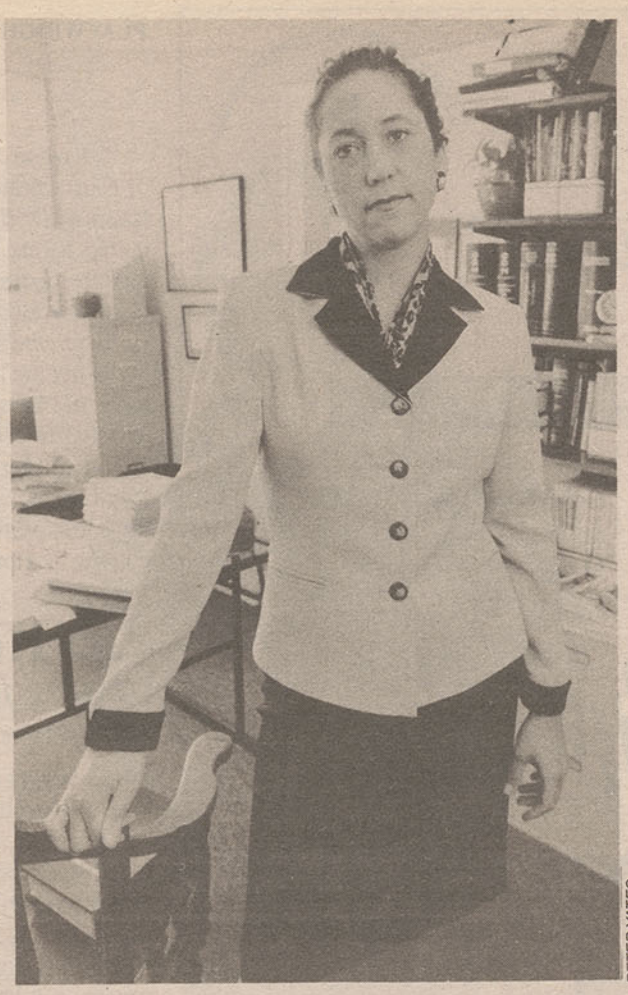
At the U-M, where he received first a bachelor's degree in 1979, then a master's degree in 1981, both in English, one of his plays, chosen as best in a playwriting class, was produced on campus. Encouraged, Sjoerdsma took the library job four months after receiving his M.A. and decided that his real work would be playwriting. Involved at the time with a small theater group whose members dreamed of moving elsewhere, he thought he'd be at the library for just a year. But the group soon dissolved, and he stayed on, checking out books and writing in intense though sporadic fits.

"I have doubts about what I'm doing all the time," says Sjoerdsma. "There's moments of panic—I wasted my life. I should have established a career." Sjoerdsma admits he could have tried harder in the past to sell his manuscripts, and he isn't sure why he didn't. In part, he was naive, he says, about how competitive the theater scene is: "I thought if you write good plays, people will want to do them."

Fortunately, Sjoerdsma isn't materialistic. Unmarried, the playwright lives in a one-bedroom apartment near downtown. "When I start getting into the feelings of regret, it usually doesn't have anything to do with money," he says. He is planning to give his stepped-up marketing efforts a couple of years to pay off before he thinks seriously about giving up as a playwright.

And he's quick to add that his goals have never been grandiose. He never expected to make a living off his plays; he doesn't care if anything he writes is remembered after his death. "I just like to know," he says, "that someone somewhere is watching my plays."

Carol Shepherd:
balancing law and theater



PETER YATES

CAROL SHEPHERD.

Her blond-brown hair knotted in a neat bun, dressed in a stylish tan jacket with black cuffs, a black slit skirt, and black heels, Carol Shepherd looks every inch the no-nonsense attorney that she is. Sipping coffee at the Gypsy Cafe, she says that her legal career helps her command a certain respect as a writer. "Everybody will take you seriously if you say you're a lawyer and a playwright," she says.

Shepherd, thirty-six, has had two plays produced. "Gin" depicts a male/female relationship quivering in the precarious territory between friendship and romance; it was selected by reviewer Chris Potter as the Best Play of the 1994 Ann Arbor Festival of Original Plays. "Personal Jesus" takes a wry look at two women who answer the personal ads. It ran for three weeks at the Performance Network in 1994.

Shepherd herself plays more than one role in the local theater scene. She's the president and driving force behind Ann Arbor Playwrights, the only local playwrights' group, she points out, that is open to anyone. ("All others," she says, "are by invitation only.") Twenty people officially belong; many others drop by for the twice a month meetings at the Gypsy Cafe to hear new plays read and discussed. "Everybody comes in with their shirtsleeves rolled up," she says.

Coordinating the group bites off another chunk of time in a life already too busy for the U-M graduate (B.A. and law school). Shepherd's legal practice concentrates on business, technology, and entertainment law, and she specializes in drawing up contracts for software licensing. She enjoys the work, she says, because it draws out the "very analytical" side of her personality. "I [also] have a sly creative side," she adds.

As an undergrad, Shepherd helped found a student Readers Theater Guild. She considered a major in theater but discarded the idea as impractical. After completing law school in 1985, she worked at a firm for a few years before going off on her own in 1989. (She also served briefly as the executive director for the Washtenaw Council for the Arts.) Working for herself allows her to adjust her schedule to squeeze in playwriting. "Sometimes [when] I'm 'on vacation,' I'm really in the office writing.

"I'll get an idea; I'll write about it. I usually have three or four themes I'm trying to get across." Shepherd says she is most interested in producing "social satire. I'm interested in depicting the absurdities about the realities of life in the twentieth century."

In "Personal Jesus," Shepherd's two main characters are a forty-two-year-old radical turned executive and a twenty-six-year-old Ph.D. dropout and temporary typist, who find themselves working at the same firm. In addition to delineating the two women's romantic yearnings, Shepherd says she is using the play as a vehicle to explore both workplace and Generation X/Baby Boomer conflicts. (She dedicates the play "to all the tough, elegant, spirited, and organized professional women I have known.")

Shepherd, who grew up in Dearborn, is committed to Ann Arbor but finds it frustrating that the town isn't more committed to new plays. Most opportunities are with the Performance Network. Although she has had a play produced there, Shepherd says the Network's emphasis on alternative theater, often with political messages, shuts out a lot of Ann Arbor Playwrights' members who write more traditional plays.

Shepherd finds the local theater scene "competitive rather than collaborative." Candidly, she adds that she herself "hasn't made a lot of friends in the theater community. A lot of people feel I have a hard edge."

She has tried—so far without success—to market her plays elsewhere. The random process of sending out one's work to agents and theaters is bewildering, she says. But "the commitment I made to my writing was that I wasn't going to be discouraged until I finished ten plays." She has three done, and several others in progress on her computer.

"I burn out all the time," says Shepherd, of her straddling of two worlds. "But it's worth it."

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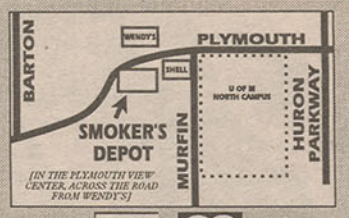

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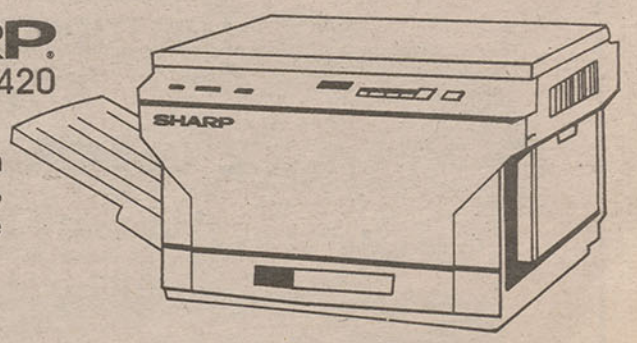

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"I *have* to consider if it's worth it three or four times a year, when I get an offer [from a law firm] for a hundred thousand dollars a year. Do I want to keep on earning this modest amount of money [in order to keep writing plays]?"

So far, the answer has been yes. "Nothing in my life has compared to the opening night of 'Personal Jesus,'" she says intensely. "When I got in back [of the theater] and listened to the audience to see if they laughed where the jokes were. . . . In my entire professional career, there's been nothing like that. That's why I do it."

Ari Roth:
putting family dramas on stage

Playwright Ari Roth's big break came when he found a mentor: former U-M theater professor and playwright Milan Stitt. Roth was nineteen years old, a junior in Stitt's playwriting class. "I was his first star," says the former U-M student turned U-M instructor. "He gave me special attention, and he watched over me. I had a mentor, a rabbi, and that's what people need."

Roth, thirty-six, has written ten full-length plays and four one-acts; most have been performed at various theaters and festivals, including a couple in New York at the American Jewish Theater and the former Circle Repertory Company. His play "Goodnight, Irene," recently performed at the Performance Network, will be broadcast as a live radio performance for National Public Radio's "The Play's the Thing."

Roth coaxed $8,500 out of the U-M for the Network production of "Goodnight, Irene," and along with Joh Broughton, successfully schmoozed for more funds from local individuals and institutions. He recruited a talented out-of-town director and cast, including Peter Birkenhead, who toured nationally with the celebrated "Angels in America." The production did not, as Roth had hoped, attract visitors from the Manhattan Theater Club, which had commissioned him to write the play. But it did elicit visitors from several small theaters and a flurry of mostly favorable reviews, including one from the *Detroit Free Press*, which usually ignores Ann Arbor productions.

Curly haired, with the kind of dark eyes often described as soulful, Roth sits at a table at Zingerman's Next Door and talks detachedly about the turbulent family history that has inspired many of his plays. He grew up in Chicago, the son of a therapist mother and an attorney father. "I used to tell my students that playwriting really spoke to me because it was really the sort of perfect marriage of my parents' professions." But his parents' troubled pasts influenced him more than their careers. They were German Jews, and though his father's family was fortunate enough to escape in 1938, his mother was one of the war's "hidden children," sheltered in vari-

PETER YATES

ARI ROTH.

ous places, including an Italian convent. Roth's first full-length play, "Giant Shadows," was based on how his mother's experiences affected his family. "My mother did a lot of disguising and masking of her own experience in order to . . . pump us up with a kind of profound sense of her identity. But she hid a lot of her own pain."

"Goodnight, Irene" also draws on family history. Set in New York City, the play, on one level, examines contemporary black-Jewish relations through the close friendship between the main character, Ethan Goodman, and Keith, a black attorney. But essentially, it's a family play, exploring the dynamics between Goodman, his troubled younger sister, Cammy, and their disturbed aunt Irene, who committed suicide when Ethan and Cammy were children. Though Roth had an aunt Irene, parts of the play were fictionalized. "She never lived with us for a summer. She never stayed overnight." She did, however, commit suicide—a source of both shame and anguish for Roth's family. Seeing his play was cathartic for both parents, Roth says. "They were very surprised and pleased."

At the U-M, where he received a bachelor's in English, Roth won two Hopwood Awards for drama. With Milan Stitt's help, he landed a job after graduation in 1982 with the well-regarded Circle Repertory Company in New York. As an associate administrator, Roth read some 2,000 scripts a year from aspiring playwrights ("You learn what not to do"), supplementing his fifty-dollars-a-week salary by teaching Hebrew School on weekends. In 1985, he married Kate Schecter, now a visiting professor of political science at the U-M. Roth began teaching at the U-M in 1988, commuting from New York, and the couple moved to Ann Arbor in 1993. They now live on the north side of town with their two young daughters. Roth is currently writing a play about Ann Arbor, but he declines to discuss it.

What is Ann Arbor like for a playwright from the New York scene? Roth praises the Performance Network as a provider of "good, cutting-edge contemporary material." Yet, he adds, "I think the problem with this town is it's still an amateur town. Most people do not consider themselves theater professionals. They think of theater as a hobby." But now, he says, "Ann Arbor is really on the cusp of taking itself seriously as a theater town." And why does he believe that? "Because I'm here," Roth says.

Roth has made money off his plays, but erratically. "One needs to supplement. There have been years when I've made twenty thousand dollars from my plays, and there've been years when I've made four hundred dollars." After years of teaching part-time at the U-M, Roth finally secured a full-time lectureship this year, teaching beginning and advanced playwriting.

As he struggles to build his reputation, Roth may, at the moment, be more fortunate than Milan Stitt. His one-time mentor left the U-M years ago to help administer the Circle Repertory Company. The Circle Rep recently folded, almost a million dollars in debt, yet another example of just how tough it can be to write and produce shows that keep audiences coming, and even paying to see. ■

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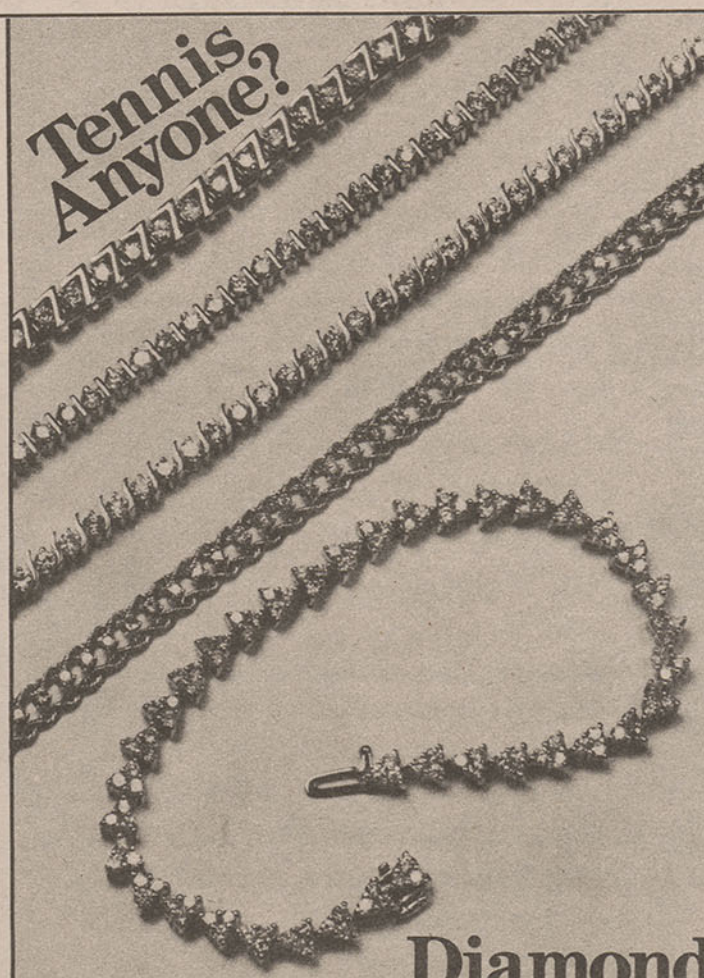

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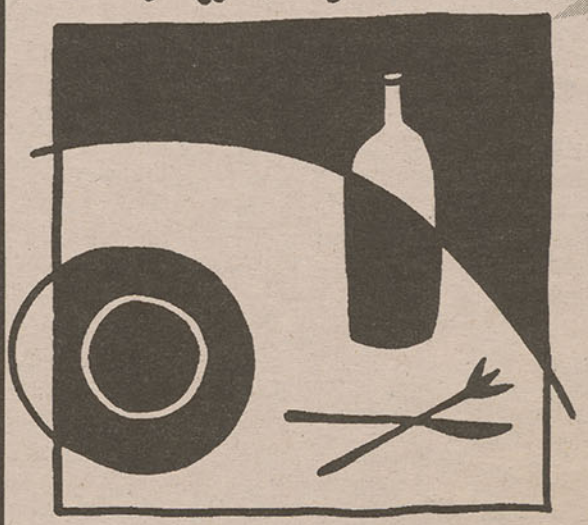

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For nineteen years the Earle has welcomed proletarian and bourgeois alike, first as a nightclub, then as a bistro (jazz is still a regular feature). But in the October Observer, I reported on a summer Earle dinner in which Diane and I were ignored for so long after being seated that we left; there were snafus galore on subsequent visits but nothing close to that cold shoulder. The local labor crunch hits the most service-intensive businesses first. With competition and turnover, some of the Earle's professional career servers have given way to underskilled wannabes whose attempts at pretension play to the wrong audience. (One night, my server acknowledged each appetizer and entree ordered with "Very good, sir.")

The Earle's menu owes its broad appeal to the conventional wisdom that provincial French cooking, like the free-range chicken or wild orchid, is somehow more pure than the henhouse or hothouse variety. Chef Shelley Caughey Adams names her dishes in bold French script, but follows up with the noblesse oblige of an English translation. Her spin on traditional continental cuisine is full of refreshing if unconventional touches not found at *le Cordon Bleu*, such as eggplant pâté–stuffed mushroom caps and a duck sauté deglazed with cider.

Most of the best menu selections are the hors d'oeuvres. We whetted our appetites on an outstanding marinated portobella salad ($6.95) with strips of tart sautéed mushroom steak and just enough balsamic to balance the bitter herbed mesclun. A pungent, smooth, and sour goat cheese ($5.95) came carpeted with sesame seeds on a bed of red and green leaves. An al dente polenta ($5.75) was scattered with mild and chewy housemade garlic sausage—fun, but not really an appetizer. And strips of roasted red pepper with fontina and herbs ($5.95) began a sweaty cascade of olive oil that carried over into the main courses.

A recurrent observation of our recent Earle experience was the overabundance of olive oil. They use good oil, and it's an absolute necessity in this cuisine, but several of these dishes could stand to have their oil content halved—if not for the Nordic Track set, then for the weak of gallbladder. The pastas suffered most from over-lubrication: duck sausage linguini ($13.95) was full of fresh basil and mild roasted peppers, but overdressed with extra virgin. The prosciutto linguini ($12.95) may just have been insufficiently tossed—the mound of spicy ham threads segregated to one side of the bowl, leaving a telltale puddle at the bottom. By contrast, the lasagna ($13.95) was pleasingly dry, with an abundance of ricotta and a heavy *quattro formaggi* cheese sauce with just a hint of the olive.

Diane orders a vegetable plate whenever possible. The Earle's huge roasted vegetable platter ($13.95) was among the busiest she'd seen, with red-skinned potatoes, broccoli, baby carrots, succulent sweet onion petals, three kinds of wild mushrooms, artichoke hearts, red and green peppers, and crunchy whole garlic toes, dusted with rosemary and a few extra squirts of extra virgin (again). I dug into a quintet of thin and tender lamb chops ($21.95), their long bones delicately crusted with garlic and herbs, served with a dense wedge of rich baked scalloped potatoes. The veal scaloppine ($17.95) was on the tough side, yet flavorful enough to stand up to the accompanying sautéed prosciutto and wild mushrooms. A heavy Parmesan-Marsala-cream reduction brought it all together.

Adams's very traditional *saumon en croûte* ($18.95), is a veritable loaf of succulent fish, spread with a mild pesto paste, blanketed in flaky puff pastry, baked golden, then splashed and served with a boat of pink, milky shallot cream sauce. This exceptional entree buttered my mouth with flavor from the first bite to the last.

The Earle's wine bar is open from 5 to 8 p.m. weeknights, offering all of the appetizers, soups, salads, and pastas on the menu at 20 percent off the dining room rates. Unusual glass wines include a 1992 Michel Lynch ($4.25), a bone-dry French Bordeaux with deep tannins and a peppery finish. A 1994 Marquis de Chasse white Bordeaux ($3.75) was a bland quaff of citrus and green. A Moreau Blanc French table wine ($3.25) was surprising in its bright, unadulterated fruit and clean finish.

Corks are everywhere at the Earle, piled in a trough behind the host stand, even embedded in the booth dividers. It's an unabashed wine snoid restaurant. The wine list—also available on the World Wide Web—is world-class and expertly navigated if the wine steward is having a good night. On each of several visits, we were pleased with recommendations spanning three continents. We even took one recommendation to Village Corner to help stock the dwindling Casa Bloom cellars with a 1993 Savennieres Chateau d'Epire, dry and nutty, with legs like a grand piano. With the holiday season in full swing, I don't think those bottles are going to last long.

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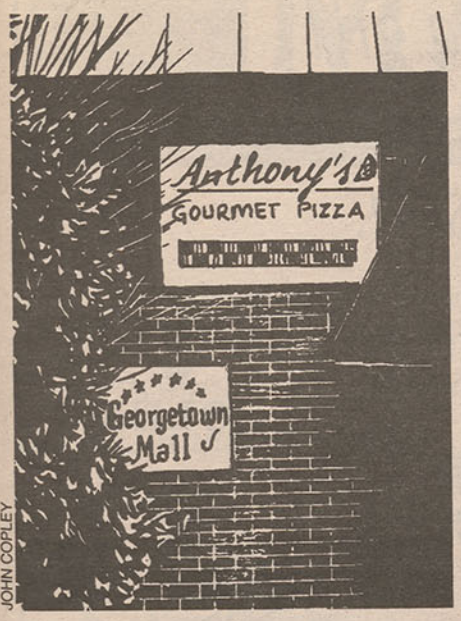

JOHN COPLEY

Anthony's Gourmet Pizza

A wheel of cheese

Anthony's Gourmet Pizza appeared on the Ann Arbor scene in 1988, during the peak of the pizzazoic period (after the ice cream age, but before the coffeeceous). It quietly developed a small but sturdy following, as word of mouth brought folks to the original gas station location at the corner of Stadium and Packard for a fill-up *and* a pie. In 1992, Anthony's moved a mile south to more respectable digs in the Georgetown strip, but it's still not a mass-market phenomenon.

Given what passes for pizza, even in this very pizzafied community, it's a shame that Anthony's has to compete for attention with the likes of Little Caesars. Anthony's ovens turn out three kinds of pie: a thin round that's almost as good as Pizza Bob's, a deep-dish Sicilian that compares favorably with Cottage Inn (Anthony's still offers a full-tray Sicilian, which Cottage Inn hasn't offered for years), and a stuffed Chicago-style pizza, which is the focus of this review.

In the Chicago division, Anthony's must contend with Pizzeria Uno, but it's not much of a contest. Lacking the care and class of Anthony's creations, Uno's commercial pies suffer from a tasteless, rubbery bottom crust (no top crust), bland sauce, and plain mozzarella. Anthony's crust, soft without being spongy, has a pleasant yeasty aroma. The sauce is loud, tart, and full of herbs. The finished pie is a veritable wheel of three kinds of cheese—a couple *pounds'* worth on a large.

Anthony's offers unusual toppings like fresh garlic, zucchini slices, and rich roasted red-skinned potato slices, the latter a counterintuitive must-have. Premium toppings include garlic-sautéed spinach, diced artichoke hearts (too many on the pies we sampled), and a nutty fontina cheese. When ordering, it's best to forget that this is pizza and simply pick a few favorite ingredients. But be prepared: a large, three-item pie runs $18 (small pies start at $9). Considering that it gorged four hungry adults, though, the quality comes at a small premium.

Logistics is a challenge with these pizzas. Even on a slow night, carryout orders average forty minutes, and delivery can be over an hour. Anthony's offers an excellent alternative in its half-baked pies, which can be finished at home in twenty minutes in a 400 degree oven. You might even try to pass it off as your own!

Anthony's Gourmet Pizza
2520 Packard 971–3555
Hours: Mon.–Thurs. 3 p.m.–midnight, Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–2 a.m., Sun. noon–1 a.m. *http://www.apin.com/anthonys/*

Quick Bites

Niche Market: Observer Holiday Guide editor James M. "Tex" Manheim tipped me off that the lunch crowd at **Eastern Accents** on South Fourth is predominantly suits, Asian suits. It seems the Asian bakery has become a favorite of local Asian businessmen—high praise, indeed.

❧❧❧

An interesting phenomenon is appearing on vacant downtown storefronts: in addition to the "For Rent" sign, there is often another sign reading **"No Restaurants."** Leasing agent Jeff Hauptman explained that there are already too many restaurants in Ann Arbor (oh?), that restaurants are more likely to fail than retail businesses (no surprise there), and that landlords too often get stuck holding the bag. But there's hope: on South Main's Goodyear building there's a sign reading, "For Rent, Office, Retail . . . Restaurant."

❧❧❧

New restaurant rumors are always flying. At one point, the Main Street buzz had *eleven* chains looking at the new Vlasic building anchoring Main and William. **Memphis Smoke,** a Tennessee-style barbecue concept from the **Mr. B's** restaurant company, is rumored to be looking at Fiegel's. **TGI Friday's,** the most lucrative per-unit restaurant franchise in history, is allegedly studying the former Bo's Steakhouse shell, even though a Seoul Kitchen's "Coming Soon" sign has been on the vacant building for months. And wouldn't it be great if Greektown juggernaut **Pegasus** took over Topinka's at the Icehouse?

❧❧❧

E-mail fred@xfer.com if you're interested in opening up an **Indonesian restaurant** in Ann Arbor.

❧❧❧

Is there a restaurant in town that isn't *hiring? The Food Gossip Hotline wants to know about it! Leave a message at 769–3175, ext. 419, or send E-mail to dcb@msen.com.*

—David C. Bloom

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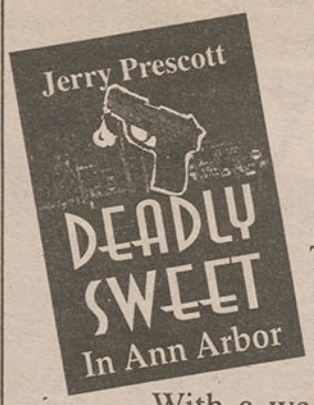

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MARKETPLACE CHANGES

Mega-Kroger

The Plymouth Rd. store adds Cinnabon—and a playroom

"Can I have my usual nine?" Mary Jo Aiken asked the person behind the **Cinnabon** counter inside the Traver Village **Kroger** supermarket. Although the concession had opened only three weeks earlier at the beginning of October, the counterman—like a bartender familiar with addicted regulars—set her right up with a box of nine big, delectable cinnamon buns. (She'd been taking them daily to the workmen renovating her house.)

Even though all of the other departments within this Kroger are company-owned, the grocery chain has begun to lease areas of its stores around the country. Part of a retail trend called "co-branding," it's meant to build traffic by adding the allure of big name brands. This Kroger-Cinnabon combo is the first in Michigan; another will be in place at the Carpenter Road Kroger by Christmas.

"Combo stores make it less necessary [for shoppers] to get in and out of their cars," says Jim Perun, Kroger vice-president of operations. It's another step in Kroger's efforts to gather and keep customers by offering as many options as possible under one roof—a trend that has seen the average size of the company's Ann Arbor stores increase by 50 percent in the last decade.

Another change in the Traver Village Kroger reflects the increasingly vague definition of "home cooking." Even as home kitchens grow bigger and bigger, sales of already prepared foods are on the rise. (One home renovator joked that *her* kitchen is going to consist of only a telephone booth from which she can call for restaurant delivery.) The floral department at the Traver Village Kroger has been moved to the center near the cash registers, increasing the temptation for a last-minute luxury. Its former space near the front of the store is now occupied by the inspirationally fragrant Cinnabon and by a huge selection of foods in various ready-to-eat stages. There are packages of prepared (though raw) meals such as stew, complete with meat and peeled potatoes and carrots—so the cook only needs a pot, some water, and a heat source. There are plastic containers of chicken fettuccini, chicken and dumplings, and many other meals that need only a microzap. And for those non-cooking moments, there are plenty of packaged sandwiches and desserts. These items, for the most part, are purchased by Kroger from outside specialty vendors.

There's also a new "Kid's Korner"—a play area for children between three and eight years old. Children can be left for up to an hour while their parents shop in the store. Parents have beepers so they can be quickly summoned, if necessary, and can also check on their kids via closed-circuit TV's throughout the store. There's no charge, making it another cost the grocer must absorb in its 1 percent profit margin. So why is Kroger doing this? The idea is, if the parents spend more uninterrupted time in the store, they'll spend more money.

Local Kroger checkout lines have been exasperatingly slow, a problem which has sent some customers to swifter places nearby. To speed things up, the company now has a program called Prime Time Express. Despite its name, it does not mean the addition of more express lanes; instead, between 4 and 7 p.m. on weekdays and noon and 6 p.m. on weekends, all cash registers will be staffed. "Those twenty-seven hours," Perun says, "account for one-half of the business for the whole week."

Kroger is still waiting for their building permit to come through for construction of a new Maple Road store. At 72,000 square feet it will be the largest in Michigan and may include a number of leased operations.

Cinnabon, 2641 Plymouth Rd. (inside the Traver Village Kroger), 997–0503. Daily 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Cinnabon manager Bud Brown serves Elizabeth and Julia Kramer at the Plymouth Rd. Kroger. The grocery chain is leasing space to companies with brand-name allure.

Rebecca Berman moves to Market Place

And Art Deco pops up next door

The **Rebecca Berman Pelletier Gallery** at Kerrytown closed abruptly in October. A few days later the **Berman Gallery and Lighting Studio** opened in the Market Place building on the other side of the Farmers' Market. This was not so much a coincidence as an illustration of the complications of business life. In the fall, Rebecca Berman (who recently resumed use of her maiden name only) told customers she would keep her Kerrytown gallery and open a second location at the Market Place. But after disagreements with Kerrytown management, she decided on overnight termination there and continued with her plans to open the Market Place gallery of which her father, Samuel Berman, is the inactive owner.

Berman opened her first gallery in 1994 on Detroit Street, next door to Zingerman's Next Door. Earlier this year, she moved it to the more visible Kerrytown spot. Her new Market Place gallery occupies part of the space that Atys had used before moving to Main Street.

Many Ann Arbor art galleries have struggled financially, and Berman acknowledges how hard it is for a gallery to succeed. She's made several attempts to broaden her business by bringing in home furnishings. For the past year, she has had a great success with imported lamps from Italiana Luce. She has also mounted three shows at Cafe Zola, which, like Sweetwaters Cafe, has become a lovely de facto art spot. Her gallery remains the place for respected area artists including painter-printmaker Karin Bodycombe, ceramicist Kaiser Suidan, jewelers and metalsmiths Helen Bunch and Susan Holt, and painter and collagist Karen Izenberg. Berman's optimism for her gallery's newest incarnation is based on lighting sales and the public's warm, though not yet lucrative, reception of these artists.

She is now also sharing space with Leonardo Stoute and Frederic Vong, who sell antiques, artifacts, art, and clothing from Southeast Asia. They also retail aromatherapy and skin-care products, which may seem like a breach of sacred art gallery protocol in which the word "products" is generally an indelicacy, but Berman believes their offerings have a spiritual intent that is consistent with her own spiritual quest through both art and Buddhism, and Stoute's through art and Sufism.

Berman is now the Ann Arbor representative for Arkitektura, a renowned Birmingham contemporary furniture shop, and for decorator Roger Moulet, whose work is also well-known in the northern Detroit suburbs.

No sooner was Berman in place than Constance Bassil and her Art Deco Design Studio moved in next door. Bassil first opened her art deco shop in 1983 on Fifth Avenue. Since then she has been at a number of locations; the two most recent were on West Washington and then, briefly, she shared space with Berman on Detroit Street. After spending the summer in her native England, Bassil has taken a short-term lease in the other half of the space previously occupied by Atys. In November her plan was to remain there until April and then decide what to do next.

Bassil is selling, buying, and taking consignment of small objects and furniture from the years 1920 to 1960. While in England she purchased items she thought would sell well here. "People in Ann Arbor like the things I sell because they're in top condition, but [Ann Arborites] aren't famous for being extravagant," she says with gritty British understatement, so she looks for items she can sell at moderate prices. She is also the Ann Arbor representative for Herman Miller For the Home, which is reissuing the furniture of modernist designers, including Charles Eames, George Nelson, and Isamu Noguchi.

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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Frederic Vong and Leonardo Stoute share Rebecca Berman's new gallery at Market Place.

Berman Gallery and Lighting Studio, 303 Detroit St., Suite 104, 741–0571. Probable hours: Tues.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., and by appointment. Evening hours will be added prior to the winter holidays.

Art Deco Design Studio, 303 Detroit St., Suite 105, 663–3326. Probable hours: Tues.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., and by appointment.

—Lois Kane

Brewbakers nears completion

Making beer and bread in Kerrytown's basement

One morning in early November, a trio of semitrailers pulled up outside Kerrytown on Fourth Avenue, each laden with sleek stainless steel cylinders. The big fermentation tanks were quickly tucked into the basement below Workbench, and **Brewbakers** took another step closer to reality. The brewery won't see action until early next year, but hearth bread-baking operations will begin by year-end, construction willing. (Brewbakers will also brew soft drinks.) When both operations are in full swing, mash from Brewbakers' brewery will be recycled in bread from its bakery.

The term "hearth bread" distinguishes hand-shaped, tray-baked breads from the factory-formed, pan-baked variety. In Brewbakers' case, the "hearth" is a 25,000 pound refractory brick and tile oven, designed by and imported from Farjas of Spain and custom built on-site by French master mason Christian Pozzar. Brewbakers co-owner Barry Seifer already has a good grasp of the brewery business, having worked on Michigan's brewpub law and related microbrewery projects. He and his wife and partner Sarah Minor have been studying the baking business in Montreal. Seifer's goal is to one-up Zingerman's knowledgeable sales staff with a *skilled* sales staff. Customers won't just buy bread from a bread wonk, they'll buy it from a real craft baker with flour under his fingernails. "The people who make the product sell the product," says Seifer.

Brewbakers will bake only bread—no croissants, pastries, or other treats. The partners plan to have twenty-two varieties available at opening, including a signature whole wheat, several unbleached white flour breads, cheese breads (including a Mediterranean-inspired feta-olive bread), savory breads such as an Andean blue-corn bread, and fruit-nut breads. "We will not be doing a chocolate dough," says Seifer, "but there will be a bread with chocolate in it."

The traditional hand-formed loaves will be allowed to rise in willow baskets or in a linen *koosh* before being loaded into the oven on wooden peels. Picture Nicolas Cage in "Moonstruck," surrounded by sacks of flour, tending the massive masonry oven like Vulcan at his forge.

"Everyone knows that bread tastes best right out of the oven, and fresh beer is better, too," says Seifer. "We wanted to be in Kerrytown so that people who are already doing their grocery shopping could stop in here to buy their bread, beer, and soft drinks right from the point of production."

Brewbakers' main entrance will be in the west Kerrytown lobby. The northeast corner of Workbench's first floor is being demolished to make room for a new flight of stairs leading down to the brewery-bakery. This will place Brewbakers strategically at the western terminus of the Kerrytown's fine-grocery lane, which already runs from Moveable Feast and Sparrow Meat Market through Zingerman's Practical Produce, Monahan's Seafood, Hill O' Beans, and Partners in Wine. A grain silo in the parking lot will complete the site's transformation.

Brewbakers' twofold production is complicated to start up, Seifer acknowledges, but he points out that there won't be anything complicated about the end result: a convenient place to buy beer and bread. "Brewbakers is a simple store," he says, "that sells very basic products."

—David C. Bloom

Dulcimers in Dixboro

A new storefront for a home-based niche market

Although its eponymous shop opened in October, the **Dixboro**

Dulcimer Store has been operating since early 1994, when owner Jane Chevalier started setting up sales booths at music festivals. Chevalier, a petite strawberry blond, also sold instruments and books through mail order out of her Dixboro home. She got the idea for a storefront last October when builders broke ground for a mini-mall at the fork where Plymouth and Ford roads split. As soon as she put up the small wooden sign on her newly rented space, curious musicians began peeking in.

Chevalier overflows with dulcimer history. The lap dulcimer, also known as the Appalachian or mountain dulcimer, originated in Germany. It is an elongated hourglass that rests across the knees. One hand strums the strings while the other frets along the neck. "It's technically a fretted zither," she asserts. The hammered dulcimer, mentioned in the Old Testament, is a large hollow trapezoid with a dozen or more sets of strings and is played with a pair of light, felt-covered wooden implements. Dulcimers were widely popular until the late 1800's, fading only when the advent of the railroad made cross-country piano delivery possible. In Michigan, the instrument remains vital, with two large summer festivals in Hastings and Evart. Players from other states refer to Michigan as "dulcimer heaven."

The store's atmosphere and decor evoke a time when calico-clad homesteaders gathered in the parlor after the evening chores to pick out some tunes. Antiques from Chevalier's personal collection are artfully arranged among the merchandise—a Regulator clock, autoharp, Gibson Girl photo, washboard, and mirrors, along with many antiquey trinkets in the showcases to fill space and add charm. The walls of the lesson rooms are adorned with homey quilts. Warm tones of wood, brass, and leather abound, echoing the handcrafted instruments.

Many hammered dulcimer vendors stock just one or two; it's not an impulse item. The Dixboro Dulcimer Store has more than a dozen, and others can be special ordered. Prices range from $549 to $1,820. For the rank beginner, there's a "Music Maker" dulcimer toy, with trapezoid-shaped sheet music that fits beneath its sixteen strings. Imported from Belarus, it costs $60. (Dulcimer rental is also available for students taking lessons from one of the four instructors affiliated with the store.) Mountain dulcimers run from $200 to $250. The shop offers autoharps, mandolins, psalteries (similar to a small hammered dulcimer, but typically bowed like a fiddle), pennywhistles, and recorders. The extensive recordings department includes not only folk melodies but also a selection of tinkling, dulcimer-infused New Age music.

The stock includes many dulcimer accessories, such as a hammer case–fanny pack, decorated with a leather emblem. There are tuning wrenches, electronic tuners, dulcimer stands, and carrying bags (in padded calico or foam-lined Cordura nylon) to fit either type of dulcimer.

Other items might be of interest to anyone who plays an instrument: a sheet music clip (to keep music on its stand), notepads decorated with musical staves, and note cards with angel musicians or a rural dulcimer scene. There are tote bags with musical designs and a handcrafted wooden music stand for $230. The selection of interesting music-motif jewelry includes a tiny gold-plated harmonica on a necklace (about 1 inch long, it plays four notes). There are doll-sized guitars, banjos, or violins for about $20.

Finally, there is a selection of exotica that would be hard to find elsewhere, including many items that provide a painless introduction into the world of music-playing: musical toys for kids, percussion doohickeys such as Chicken-Shakes (egg-shaped, filled with rattlely stuff), Fruit-Shakes (same thing, shaped like produce) for $4–$6, plastic harmonicas, nose flutes, kazoos, and castanets. There are musical washboards for $16, Danforth bones for $10, and hand-carved wooden musical spoons for $11. Peruvian ocarinas are $8, hand-painted with folk designs. Other items include plastic Mickey Mouse instrument toys, an inflatable "air guitar" shaped like an electric guitar, and limberjacks (wooden dancing figures).

Working at such a store is a labor of love for employees. Valerie Mercieca, from Ypsilanti, has been playing for about a year. "My friends and parents got together and bought me a dulcimer, and it included lessons from Jane. She's a wonderful teacher." Mercieca's other job: a speech therapist for Ypsilanti schools. "The dulcimer is my therapy. I go home and bang on that."

For customer Glenn Lee, who plays several folk instruments, the store "satisfies the kind of craving that would turn into a trip up to Elderly [Instruments in Lansing], and that would cost me a hundred dollars." He's discovered some essential cassettes and a unique strumming pick that double-plucks each guitar string. "This place is like a candy store," says Lee. Appropriately, the picks are stored on the counter in old-fashioned candy jars.

Dixboro Dulcimer Store, 5740 Plymouth Rd. (Dixboro Village Shoppes), 665–2357. Tues., Wed., & Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Thurs. & Fri. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m.

—Karen Missavage

Briefly Noted

Big Market has a new name, a new look, and a new emphasis. It is now **Big Market Deli and Cafe.** The store has stopped selling alcoholic beverages, increased its selection of ready-to-eat foods, and added seating space for about thirty-five people to create a self-serve cafe.

Mohamad Issa, who generally acts as spokesman for the Issa family (owners of Big Market Deli and Cafe, the Liberty Market, and various rental properties), says the family gave up liquor sales for religious reasons. (It turned out to be a timely decision since liquor sales are down everywhere.) Also, a collection of down-at-the-heels alcohol customers were giving the Big Market a seedy image, and more significantly, the Issa family now owns enough properties to ensure the family's

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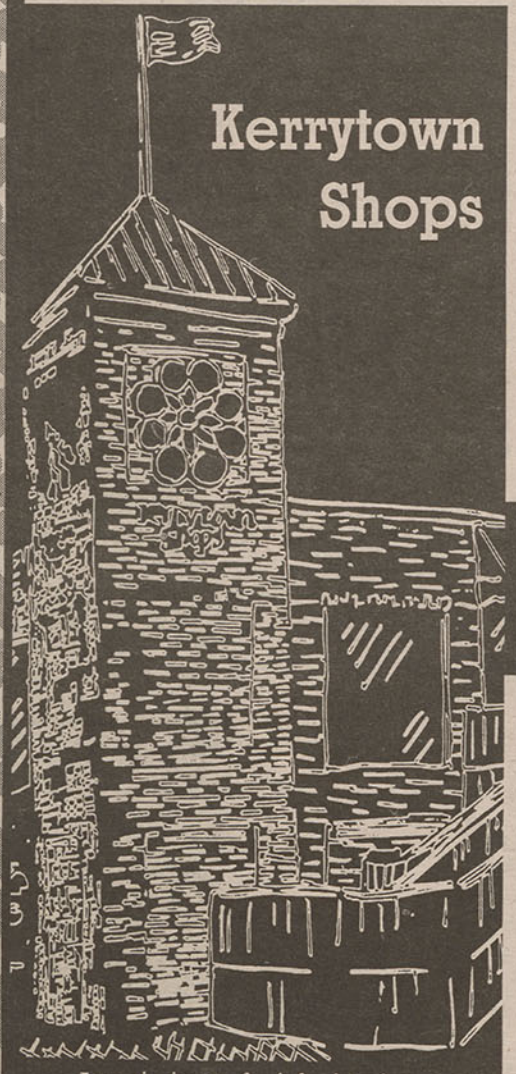

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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

At Big Market, Mohamad Issa is dropping alcohol and adding a cafe.

security—allowing them to give up what was anathema to them anyway.

Big Market opened in 1981 with a beer and wine license. They added a liquor license in 1986. Alcohol sales, which they discontinued this summer, accounted for about half a million dollars, or 40 percent of their business. But, Issa says, they'll gradually be able to make up about a quarter of a million with the cafe, and they'll just hope for the best about the rest. As more housing units open downtown, the market part of Big Market will probably automatically increase its customer base. Besides, they're adding their own bakery in the back room where beer kegs were once stored. They'll be making Middle Eastern foods, importing some from Detroit, and adding coffee drinks, including cappuccino and Turkish brew.

Big Market Deli and Cafe, 341 E. Huron, 662–4445. Daily 7 a.m.–10 p.m.

"I like their coney dogs and hamburgers," says Ypsilanti family practice nurse Charlene Brown, who often grabs a meal at **Abe's Coney Island** on Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti. "It's inexpensive and it's lively—it's pretty full most of the time." Abe's is now also famous, thanks to a visit by President Clinton during a campaign swing through Michigan shortly before the November election.

Even before being blessed by America's most famous fast-food fan, owner Abraham Asani was planning to expand. He'll be opening his second Abe's Coney Island in the Colonial Plaza center on South Industrial this month or next. There will be some differences between his two restaurants: Ann Arbor's will have a few more vegetarian offerings, and whereas the Ypsilanti Abe's is open twenty-four

hours (Asani is proud that, consequently, he doesn't even need a key to the door), at least initially, the Ann Arbor Abe's will close sometime after midnight and reopen around 5 a.m. Asani's extended family helps with his business, and his wife, Kathy, will manage the Ann Arbor restaurant. If that store works well, they hope to open Abe's Coney Islands in various parts of the county.

Abe's Coney Island, 1952 South Industrial, 663–6302. Probable hours: 5 a.m.–midnight or later.

❧❧❧

Sisters Nadine O'Malley and Dianne Theisen beat the crowd into co-branding (see Kroger, above). In early 1995 they opened a **Mail Boxes Etc.** combined with a little convenience store named **Main Mart** in the Goodyear Building on South Main. Both names will still apply when they move one block south to the Pratt Block—the renovated Kline's building. They've taken an interior spot next to Atys and across from Le Dog. Not only will they have the advantage of a busier block but their new space is somewhat smaller, making their rent lower. Another advantage is that the Pratt Block has upstairs apartments so its lobby is always accessible, both from the back and front of the building. With the move, Mail Boxes Etc. box holders will be able to park in back, alongside the building, and run in to get their mail anytime. In October, O'Malley and Theisen were planning to make the move by the end of the year. Main Mart will continue to sell snacks, pop, juice, cigarettes, gum, and envelopes, and will continue to offer copier and fax services as well. They'll add other products according to demand.

Main Mart (with Mail Boxes Etc.), 306 S. Main, Suite 1C, 665–7981. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Closed Sun.

❧❧❧

The **Ann Arbor Flowers and Garden Center** that is replacing Simon's Farm Market on Washtenaw near Huron Parkway is part of a flower dynasty in the making. It's been opened by Ed and Lois Pinter. Ed's father, Joseph, opened a greenhouse south of Ypsilanti in 1929. Ed and his brother Joseph have continued to run that greenhouse as a wholesale business, supplying many area retailers. The new store will be managed by Ed and Lois's daughter, Julie. It will be a full-service flower shop with many of the flowers and bedding plants coming from the family's greenhouse and others in Washtenaw County. For the holidays, they'll carry trees, wreaths, pine roping, and many varieties of poinsettias. Summers, they'll carry some gardening equipment, and they're applying to the planning commission for permission to build a small greenhouse next to the shop. (The Pinter Flowerland stores on Washtenaw in Ypsilanti and on Ellsworth at State are owned by other branches of the Pinter family.)

Ann Arbor Flowers and Garden Center, 3201 Washtenaw, 677–4808. Daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

Eight used clothing stores opened in Ann Arbor during the past year. The newest, **Repeat Performance,** located in Parkland Center on Jackson Road, is the only one specializing in bridal and formal wear.

"I've been thinking of this for ten years," says owner Karen Pogue. "I have four daughters and they started going to proms, this, that, and the other thing." That's when she learned about the cost of formals. More recently, there's been talk at her house about wedding dresses—which cost a lot more. Pogue and her family recently moved to Ann Arbor from St. Clair Shores. A friend there has a resale clothing store and was willing to seed Pogue's opening stock here. Pogue also placed ads in the *Ann Arbor News* Bulletin Board, and the response both for stock and customers got her off to a good start.

Despite being open only two weeks, she had already sold two formals on the day I spoke with her in late October. She had several wedding gowns in stock. Two of them were a well-known brand called Alyse. New, she said, the gowns would cost between $1,200 and $1,500. Her prices were between $350 and $400, of which the consignee would get half. "You're talking about beautiful, beautiful dresses," she said. "The savings can be phenomenal." Mothers-of-the-bride dresses are running between $49 and $79. Formals are mostly between $29 and $50, and Pogue assumes they will make up most of her business. Women only wear their formal dresses once or twice, and quite a few people, she estimates, have three or four they'd be glad to sell.

The store is a career change for Pogue. She'd been a psychologist for the last twenty-five years and wanted to do something different. Her background makes her uniquely qualified for dealing with buyers and sellers alike. She empathizes with their stories and cherishes them. "There's a sentimental quality," she said. "A lot are not sure they want to part with their memories. Some people have gotten divorced and *don't* want that dress; some just don't want this great big box around anymore.

"I keep a list of what people want. For example, there's a woman whose daughter is coming home for Thanksgiving, and they're coming in then. One woman described what she wanted and I found it, but it has a big coffee stain so I'm going to see about getting it out. I have purses and jewelry—I really want more. Veils are about forty dollars; I have one now that's like a little Cinderella crown with a veil. I hope to get vintage gowns. I'd love, someday, to design some, too."

Repeat Performance, 4359 Jackson Rd. (Parkland Center), 741–8028. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Closed Sun.

In the Works

In early November, Mainstreet Ventures was about to occupy the space next door to Gratzi which they had subleased to Terra Bella from January 1983 until August of this year. The company regularly makes changes to their restaurants to keep them exciting—and to stay ahead of the increasing number of competitors downtown. Partner Mike Gibbons was thinking of calling the new space **Gratzi's La Dolce Vita** (the sweet life). If the plan goes through as conceived in November, the street level will be a dessert place furnished with comfy upholstered chairs and couches. The downstairs will cater to the cigar revival—a place to smoke cigars while enjoying an appropriate drink such as sherry or brandy. (Partner Dennis Serras says they can get a good filtration system that will take care of the smoke.) Part of the plan is to open the wall between Gratzi and the dessert room (the stairway to the cigar room will be in the center of the dessert room) so that after their meal, patrons can move on to dessert or a smoke, as was popular in the fin de siècle grand style. The big difference this time around is that in cosmopolitan places, the women are striding along into the smoking room, too. Gibbons and Serras expect to open Gratzi's La Dolce Vita by February.

Following their successful adaptation of the Real Seafood Company into an indoor/outdoor restaurant by installing garage doors that open the place up on warm summer days, the Mainstreet Ventures partners did the same thing to Maude's this summer. They also added a food smoker at Maude's. Serras says they're still making take-out boxes of terrific barbecue-smoked ribs, ranch fries, and coleslaw for $9.95 (one-third less than the same meal served in the restaurant).

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Veena Thapar, who is originally from India, worked at Physicians Weight Loss Centers in the United States. She plans to integrate that experience in the menu of her **Manali** restaurant when it opens at the corner of West Washington and Fifth Avenue this month or next. The lunch menu will center around sandwiches and other uncooked dishes, many with an Indian accent. Dinners will include hot meals—some American, some Indian. In all cases, Thapar will be designing her recipes with an eye to health-conscious meals, with a selection that's appropriate for fans of both Indian food and typically American-style food.

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Also coming up: two more **Pasta To Go** franchises, and a likely expansion of **Grace's Select Second Hand and Antiques** on Main Street near Washington.

Closings

In 1920, immigrants Max and Florence Goldman opened a dry-cleaning shop in the block of State Street between Washington and Liberty. Twenty-five years later their sons, Max and Harold,

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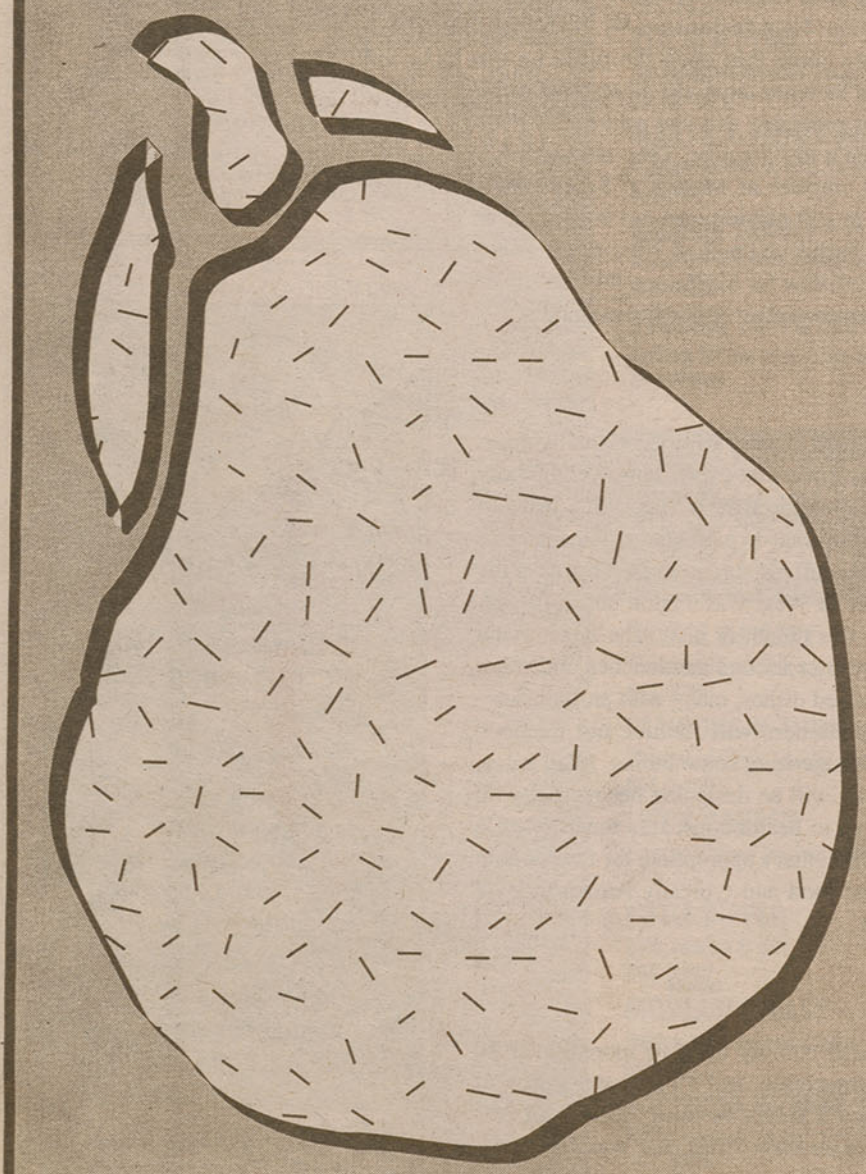

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built a front addition on the building and opened a women's clothing store. They named it **Marti Walker,** the combined nickname and maiden name of Max's wife, Martha. The State Street store closed last year to make way for Zanzibar restaurant, but the signature GBB, for Goldman Brothers Building, remains above the front door. Under the direction of Max's sons Max and Ed, Marti Walker grew into a chain of eighteen Michigan stores. Over the last few years, the number of Ann Arbor Marti Walkers has dwindled. With the November 30 closing of the company's Westgate store, their local presence is completely gone, although the company still has fourteen stores elsewhere in Michigan.

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"Today my sister and I went to NAC (**Not Another Cafe**) to get some dessert after lunch," five-year-old Olivia Rother wrote in early November. "But it was such a shock, because NAC was closed!

"I like NAC because it has sofas and it has games and it has some good hot almond milk. My sister says the Oreo cookies are the same as they had at Drake's. NAC was always sort of middle noisy. Today we had to go to a different coffee shop and it was too quiet."

Sure enough, the cafe at the corner of South U and Forest was dark when we checked a week later. At approximately the same time, a "For Rent" sign appeared in the window of **Salad Days** at William and State. The two restaurants have overlapping ownership; Salad Days had been closed, ostensibly for renovations, for about a month. A message left for Scott Severance, the corporate agent for both businesses, was not returned.

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The **Caddy Shack** at Westgate has also closed; as has **Latdior,** a small restaurant featuring African cuisine on West Hoover, and **Ann Arbor Typewriter** on Packard, which suffered the humiliation of a public eviction in October.

Follow-up

Five years ago this month, the Changes column reported nine retail and restaurant openings. Of those, **Webster's Books,** a branch of **Dough Boys** bakery, and a branch of **Dobbs Optical** all opened at Traver Village and continue to share in the north-side center's success. The **Prickly Pear** restaurant on Main Street near William has also been continuously successful. **Bangkok II,** a Thai restaurant in Braun Court has been replaced by another Thai restaurant, Siam Cuisine. Businesses that closed during the intervening five years are **Light Wraps,** a vintage clothing store whose owner, poet David McNulty, moved to the East Coast to be closer to his family; **Cargo Express** at Oak Valley; **Liberty Street Annex,** which is being replaced by the Ann Arbor Art Center's **Feat of Clay,** a place to buy and decorate small ceramics; and **Andrew's Anytime Cafe,** a gourmet take-out place next to the Broadway Kroger. The column also mentioned **Top of the i,** a convenience restaurant inside the U-M's Institute for Social Research, which had opened previously, and is still there under the faithful management of Charles Nelson.

December 1991 survival rate: 55 percent

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One year ago this month, the Changes column reported fourteen retail and restaurant openings. Of those, only **Roncari Fine Jewelers** at Briarwood and a used clothing store, **Rags from the Attic,** have closed. Still open: a bunch of places at Briarwood—**Coffee Beanery** in the center court, **Aldo** shoe store, **Abercrombie and Fitch, Bath and Body Shop, Nordic Track,** and the **WTVS Store of Knowledge.** Two businesses, **Kelly's Cafe and Bakery** and the **Perfect Pretzel,** which had been expected to arrive at the mall, never got there. Also at the one-year mark: **Arbor Drugs,** which replaced Mindell's Pharmacy at Carpenter Plaza, **Einstein Bros. Bagels** on State Street near the U-M campus, and **Regrets Only** at Kerrytown, which is about to expand from a tiny space on the first floor to a new one in the second-floor hallway near Kitchen Port.

Yes Sandwich and Yogurt opened an outlet in the Michigan Union food court a year ago this month. Since then they've purchased a machine to make their own sandwich wraps. Getting it up and running has been a laborious process, but in October, Stacey Marsh, co-owner with her husband, Mike, said they were about a month away from test-marketing the breads. In October they also completed a plan to unite their Traver Village store with the Webster's Books next door by removing part of a wall—essentially giving the bookstore a cafe and vice versa.

The Marshes have a sales incentive program in which each month they specify one item for emphasis and reward the staff of the store that sells the most units by giving them around $35 to go bowling or to the movies. "It builds camaraderie," Stacey Marsh says. "And the customers enjoy it." Under the enthusiastic direction of manager Andrea Crawford, the Woodland Plaza store won three months in a row this summer. They decided to use their winnings to "adopt" a family for the holidays. Upon hearing the news, the Marshes were so impressed they immediately pitched in matching funds. Subsequently, the Traver Village store joined the adoption plan, too, and the whole company is putting on a canned goods drive for holiday giving.

December 1995 survival rate: 86 percent

—*L.K.*

Ann Arbor Observer

HOLIDAY GUIDE '96

A comprehensive guide to holiday shopping and festivities in the Ann Arbor area.

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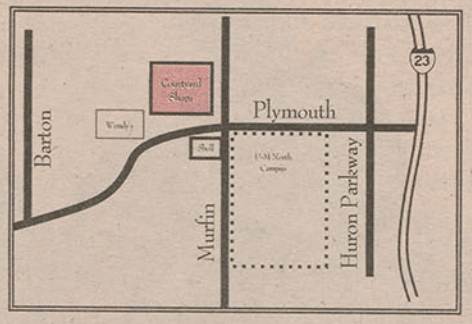

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

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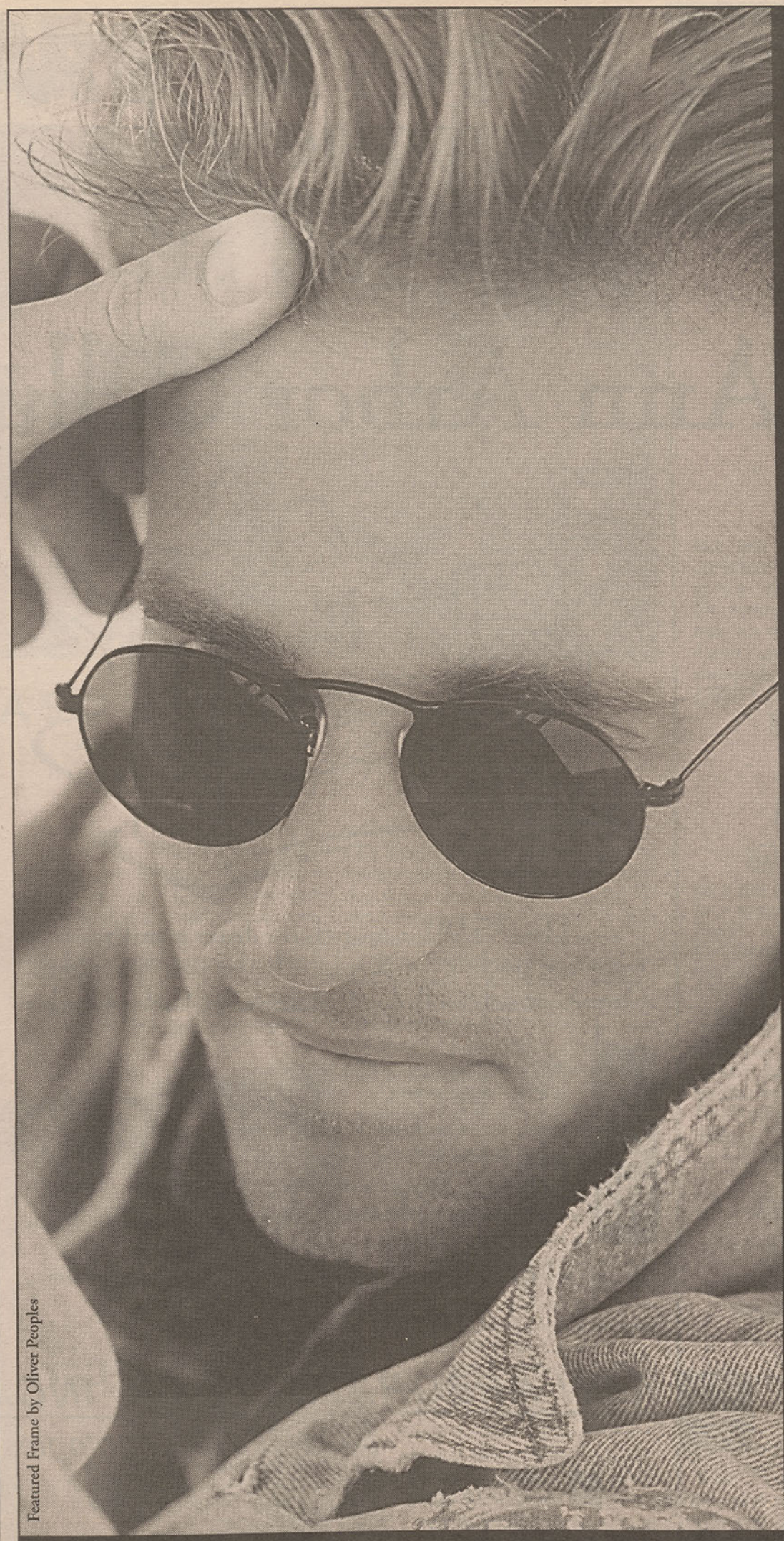

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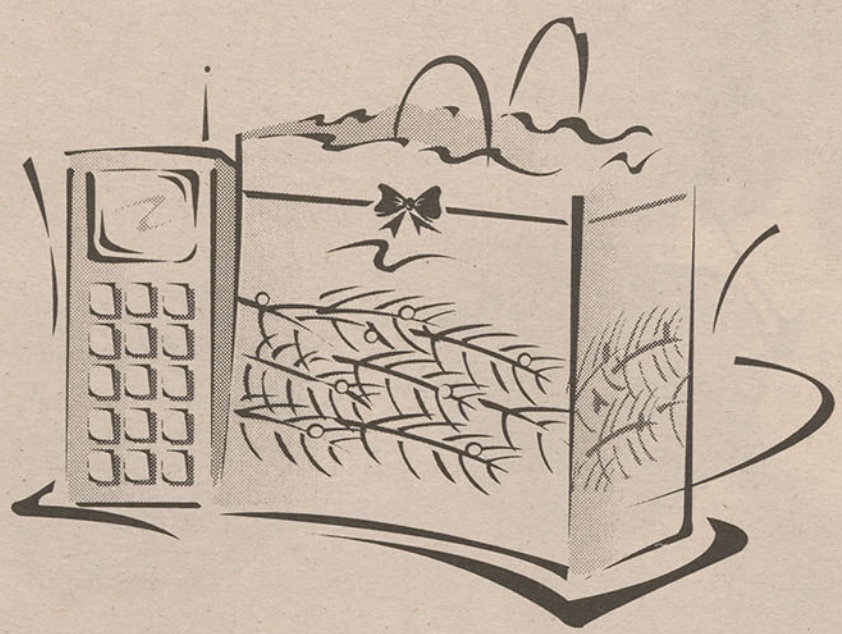

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ANN ARBOR GIFTS

A SEASON'S BOUNTY

BY JAMES M. MANHEIM

PHOTOS BY PETER MATTHEWS

What an assignment! Shop Ann Arbor and then boil it all down to 4,500 words of ideal holiday gifts. A lot of questions crossed my mind: Can my tastes possibly be representative of those of our fair city as a whole? Can anybody's? And what must the Chinese think of us as they churn out all of this stuff in their factories? But in the end, I wound up dazzled by the many really terrific items and convinced that any Ann Arborite who doesn't give great holiday gifts just isn't trying.

Let's begin at **BRIARWOOD.** J. C. Penney usually isn't known for its ethnic wear, but just a few yards in from the store's westernmost entrance I spotted some gorgeous hand-screened scarf-print nightgowns in rich and unusual purples and golds, from Pakistan, for $29.99. Another piece of subcontinental style graces the women's wear section on Jacobson's second floor: sequined, beaded women's jackets from India are really eye-catching at $99–$108. But rest assured, Jake's isn't abandoning its classics—nobody does the simple cashmere sweater better. There's a large selection this year, priced at $119–$129.

I perused the various power shirts in the men's department at Jake's and finally decided I would be most intimidated by the Boss line from Hong Kong, especially the one in solid black. They cost $80–$90. Also intimidating in their own way are tiny Harley Davidson jackets ($65) in the children's department.

At Hudson's, Field Gear light-blue denim overshirts with an interior lining seem like a winner for Michigan's dismal climate. The idea of a lined denim shirt, simple though it may seem, is a new one. They're in the men's department (although either men or women could wear them) and cost $58.

Structure has a lot of coolly stylish gift possibilities for men, but I was intrigued

by their very classy selection of boxer shorts—I've never owned underwear I had to button before. Two pairs cost $24 or $26. Having put myself in an underwear frame of mind, I headed for Victoria's Secret. Green and red velvet bras at $40 each ought to stimulate a little Christmas spirit in just about anybody, and the clerks also pointed out a spectacular black cashmere robe with a silk lining ($300).

Natural Wonders is one of the holiday-time standouts of the Penney's corridor. You can be sure to find elegant and educational nature-inspired gifts there any time of year. Harmony Kingdom "animal boxes" caught my eye—small boxes for jewelry and the like, carved in animal shapes that create odd, fascinating junctures between box and lid. They cost $20–$75. Natural Wonders also has some unusual thermometers: colored globes, labeled with various temperatures, floating in a liquid-filled glass column. Eddie Bauer has a functional thermometer among its classic denims and reliably nifty gifts this year: an outdoor model with a combination-locked house-key compartment concealed in the back.

Natural Wonders has strong new competition in the "cool stuff for smart Ann Arbor kids" department: the WTVS Store of Knowledge is packed with educational items of all kinds. Adult possibilities include an attractive set of rune cards with an interpretive book for $27.50.

The clerks at Kay-Bee Toys had been instructed not to talk to members of the press, but those at Jacobson's toy department touted the awards won by Toobers & Zots, fun flexible-foam construction toys that can twist and turn into shapes limited only by the imagination. A basic set costs $25. ▸

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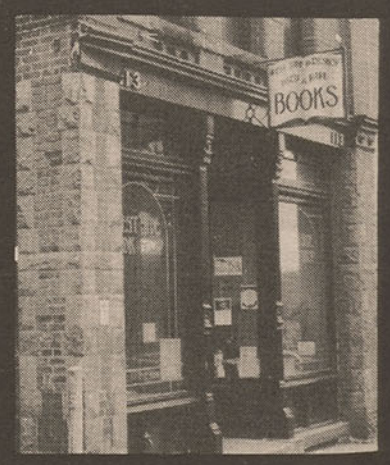

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ANN ARBOR GIFTS

And check out the little Geppeddo doll cart outside Penney's for some wonderful multiethnic dolls (although few African-American ones), along with a large selection of accessories. Briarwood's Common Market carts are increasing in number and providing local craftspeople and entrepreneurs a way to compete with the big chains in the mall. The proprietors are friendly, making a purchase at one of these little carts an especially personal pleasure.

Blacklight-sensitive items are the latest 1960's trend adopted by Generation X, and World Bead Company has a good selection of them. (Speaking of 1960's trends, they also have balls of hemp cord for $15.) Suncoast Motion Picture Company has a vast selection of movies under $15, and they're diverse enough to satisfy the cineast and the Arnold addict alike. Surprisingly, this mall outlet far outstrips in-town video shops in its selection of cutting-edge Japanese animation.

And as for American animation, Briarwood can do that, too. The Disney Store and the Warner Bros. Studio Store are slugging it out for consumers' dollars just as they did for those of theatergoers fifty years ago. WB has an attractive Daffy Duck garden statue for $55 and some high-ticket artwork in its "gallery area," including one-of-a-kind original production art and limited-edition prints signed by the great Friz Freleng and other WB artists selling for as much as $1,750. The Disney Store is similarly well-furnished. Among all of the Disney images, one item caught my eye: baseball caps with the names of the seven dwarfs—and *no* image.

Unlike most of the cafes in town, the mall's Gratzi outlet is decked out with many gift possibilities, including French press coffeemakers, big mugs, and pickled peppers, among others. Hudson's kitchenware department is well stocked this year with "stovetop grillware": pots and pans with ridged cooking surfaces, they're full of culinary possibilities. Prices range from $19.99 to $59.99. Lechter's always has a few cornball classics mixed in among its packed-to-the-rafters kitchenwares. This year, look for cat-, cow-, and bird-headed teakettles for $29.99—tomorrow's collectibles.

The hardware department at Sears is always a reliable source for practical gifts, although the days when you could count on getting technical advice from a Sears salesperson are unfortunately long gone. I liked the Grip Light, a flashlight mounted on flexible tubing so it can be positioned to shine into your car engine, behind the stove, or anywhere else you want it to point. It's a "why didn't somebody think of this before" item at $18.88, or $14.99 for a small one.

A chess computer works well as a gift because to buy one for yourself seems like an unnecessary indulgence. Radio Shack has a fine one for $99.99. For connoisseurs of contact sports, M Den (with locations on South University and Main Street as well) has block M–shaped pasta for $3.95 a box, and Waterford crystal with the same image for $45–$165. Michigan—the state, not the team—merits its own retail outlet: Love from Michigan. They've got a down-to-earth selection of local cookbooks in back that will teach you how to prepare wild game, church basement cuisine, and more.

ARBORLAND is going through some transitions, but don't let that discourage you—the Toys R Us outlet is as gigantic as ever, and the mall's interior vacancies have drawn some intriguing independent merchants. Don't miss Originations Gallery and its great selection of multiethnic gifts, many of them African. Most of what's available here I didn't see anywhere else in town. Try Kenyan paintings on dried banana peels, depicting leopards or groups of Masai tribespeople: a steal at $20. This shop also has a good selection of African-American dolls. I was also delighted by the work of African-American artist Annie Lee—sculptures and paintings of everyday scenes with an original sense of the human form. They cost from $45 to $145 for paintings and from $25 to $225 for sculptures.

Gags & Gifts is always worth investigating when you're looking for that nonstandard item. I liked Shoe Charms, pieces of shoe jewelry mounted on little rings that you stick the laces through—great stocking stuffers at $1.75 each for someone who may need a subtle image modification. An inflatable standup of the figure in Edvard Munch's "The Scream" is $29.95. This store also carries a selection of Beanie Babies, bean-stuffed animals

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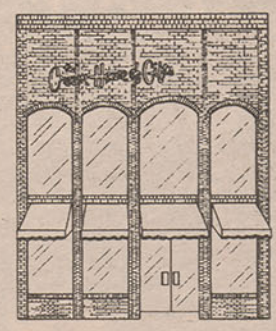

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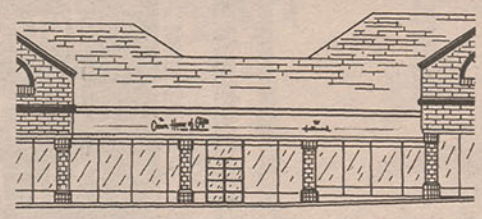

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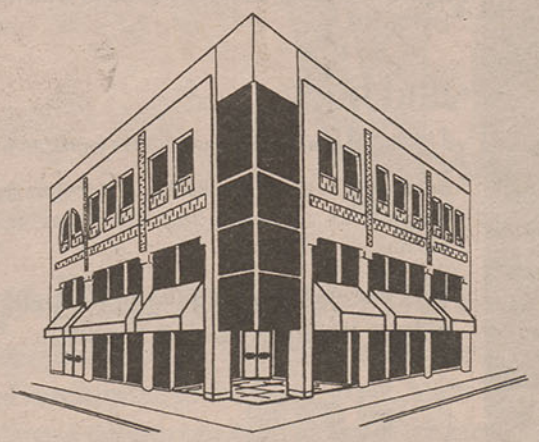

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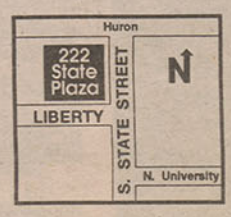

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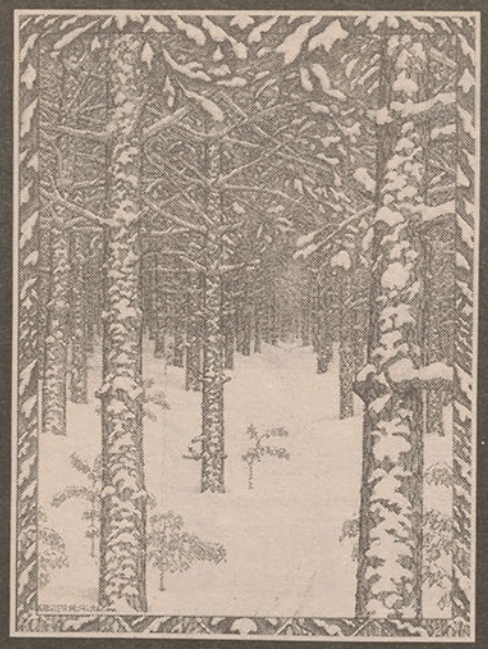

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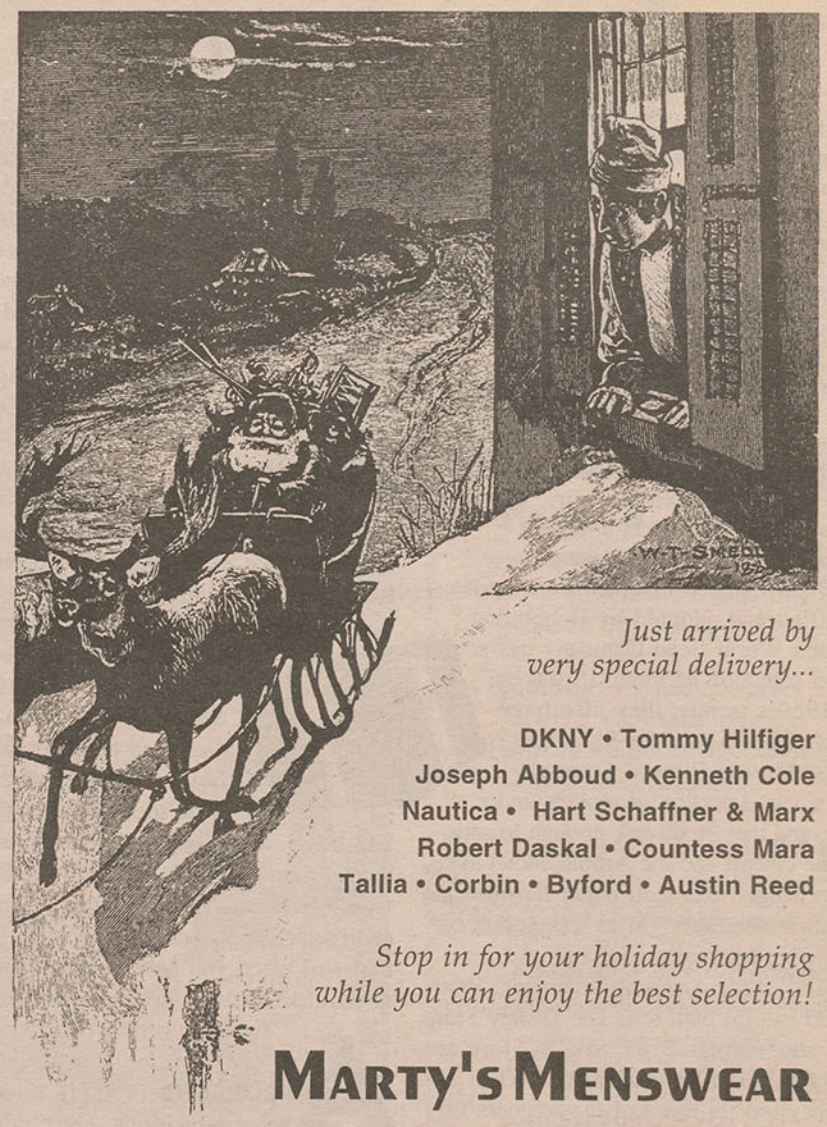

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ANN ARBOR GIFTS

a selection of Beanie Babies, bean-stuffed animals that (I was told several times) are shaping up as this year's big kids' toy. The original Beanie Baby brand is called "ty." G & G's clerk told me, "Kids say, 'If you don't see the "ty" tag on it, it's generic.' I've never heard kids talk like that."

Arborland's big chain stores have plenty of possibilities for a decent gift at the last minute. Men's ties at Burlington Coat Factory start at 99¢, and they have raw silk blouses for women for a mere $6.95. Marshall's always has a good selection of wonderfully cheesy women's hats for $19.99 and up.

Down **WASHTENAW AVENUE** from Arborland you can buy stereos, holiday hams, and numerous other gifts. And don't overlook Allstate Darts and Billiard Accessories, a small independent shop that transports you into another world when you step inside. Its very British proprietor will guide you through racks loaded with hundreds and hundreds of jewel-like dart sets, all with different designs. They range in price from $8.99 to around $150, with most in the $30–$40 range. Wood inlay billiard cue sticks run as high as $630 and are beautiful craft pieces as well. You can also buy a working slot machine for your foyer for $595. It's set for tokens, but with a few simple (and illegal) adjustments, it could accept real coins.

Gift possibilities pop up here and there along the functional workaday strips lining the rest of Ann Arbor's periphery. Some of my most treasured wintertime gifts have been growing things and Frank's Nursery & Crafts (with locations at Maple Village on **NORTH MAPLE ROAD** and across from Arborland) is a good source for them this time of year. At the Maple Village store I saw giant cacti for $49.99. A "Bright Stik" fluorescent plant bulb that needs no fixtures is $21.99—pick up a few African violets to go with it, and you're sure to drive someone's winter blues away. Furry companionship might also do the trick. University Aquarium and Pets in Westgate, on **WEST STADIUM BOULEVARD,** has the hot new pets—sugar gliders, terrific little marsupials that have pockets of their own and will ride around happily for hours in yours, are $350. The store carries hedgehogs, too. A very talkative parrot, complete with cage, sells for $2,500.

T J Maxx around the corner is a boon to the quickie shopper, open late, with a healthy selection of clothes at popular prices and a variety of gift items scattered throughout the store. This year I saw compact Tasco binoculars—a respected brand—for $39.99. T J Maxx also offers a good selection of women's purses. Nearby, Play It Again Sports offers cross-country skis at $25–$50, half the price, or less, of new skis. Pick up a pair for someone who needs a winter exercise program. For those who thrive on the thrill of newness, Play It Again has snowboards for $120–$400.

For the adventurous eater in your circle of friends, head for Sing Tong grocery off **ANN ARBOR–SALINE ROAD** near Outback Steakhouse. Don't be alarmed by the loud disembodied voice that announces "Welcome to Sing Tong" when you open the door. "Auspicious" brand preserved duck eggs ($2.69 a package) would seem to bode well for the new year. Dehydrate Snow Fungus is only $2.39. The Meijer hypermarket across the street is far less exotic but still worth keeping in mind during the harried holiday season—its vast selection of useful stuff is accessible twenty-four hours a day.

At Pier One imports, in the parking lot of Cranbrook Center at the corner of Ann Arbor–Saline Road and Eisenhower Parkway, I found transparent busts of human heads in clear or green glass ($15). At first I couldn't imagine what they'd be used for, but an impeccably dressed woman of my acquaintance informs me that you can put hats on them. A cute cat-lover's gift at Pier One: a mirror encircled by two wood folk-art cats touching each other's faces ($30).

For someone like me, whose cooking always carries with it the risk of chaos and despair, food makes a good gift. Whole Foods natural grocery on **EAST STADIUM BOULEVARD** sells a selection of nut butters to spice up the life of a person who lives on PB&J's. There's almond butter, sunflower seed butter, cashew butter, hazelnut butter, and the ultimate in decadent indulgence, macadamia nut butter, at

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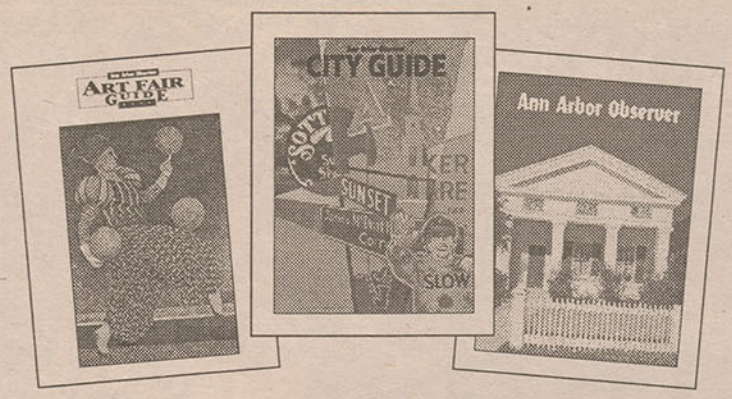
STATE STREET AREA ASSOCIATION

main street area association

South University Merchant Association



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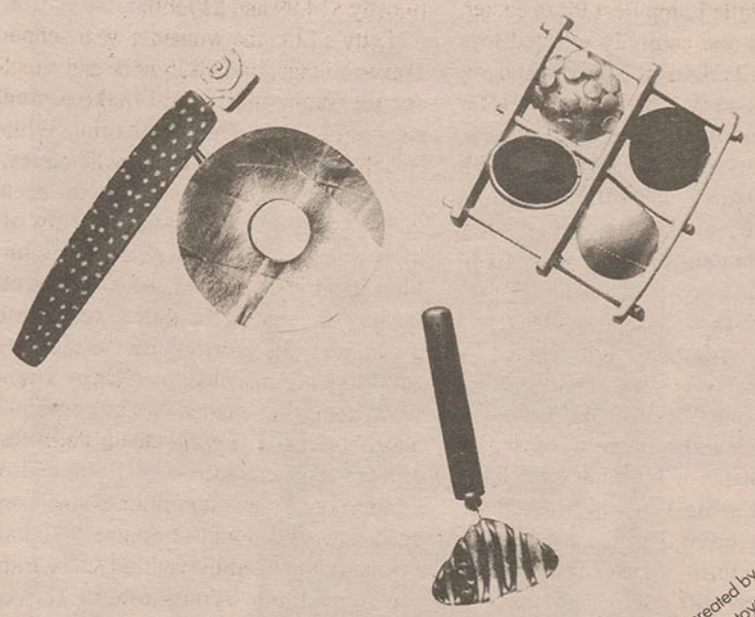

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ANN ARBOR GIFTS

prices running from $4 to $14 a jar. While you're in the little Lamp Post Plaza center, don't overlook the carefully selected toys and books at Charlotte's Corner next door. At Merchant of Vino on **PLYMOUTH ROAD**, you could pick up a quart of olive oil for $29.99, give it to friends as a gift, and then invite yourself over for a spaghetti dinner to experience how much better it tastes than the slag you buy at Kroger. The most expensive bottle of wine at Merchant of Vino is a three-liter 1988 Gaja Barolo Sperss from Italy signed by the vintner. It looks impressive in its wooden case and sells for $399.

My own winter blues are lifted neither by cashew butter nor by fluorescent lighting, but the Matthaei Botanical Gardens' conservatory on Dixboro Road just south of Plymouth will always turn the trick. Their gift shop is definitely worth a stop at holiday time. This year colorful trowel earrings ($16) will delight the gardener in your life, or you might try Matthaei's own button-top long-sleeve T-shirts. One new design features lovely line drawings of gardening tools. There are great holiday cards here, too, and, of course, plants.

A few hundred yards north of Matthaei at the Dixboro General Store, I found classic kids' wooden sleds for $69.99; I daresay these are hard to find anywhere else. You might spell out a holiday message of love (or frustration) with Dixboro's wooden letter blocks ($1.99 each). And I liked their hand-painted earthenware coaster-size plates on holiday and nonholiday themes (mostly $14.99 and $17.99).

Letty's Ltd., the women's wear shop in Traver Village, has a $25 neck and shoulder massager that would make a great stocking stuffer. The neighboring White Rabbit toy store offers an incredible bounty at any time of the year. Across the street in the Plymouth Road Mall, the always highly browsable Ann Arbor Antiques Mall has a good stock of antique cameras starting at about $150; they'll bring back memories, and many of them are technically superior machines as well. A lower-ticket item at the mall would be collectible matchbooks at 10¢ each—there's a big jar of them at the entrance.

Pick out a few stylish ones and then head down Plymouth to Smoker's Depot. If you've thumbed through a Gen X fashion tome lately, you know that cigar smoking is enjoying something of a renaissance (among both young men and women). Here you can buy gift cigars costing as much as an awesome $15 apiece. Swan Vesta matches from Britain, mentioned in several John le Carré novels, cost 50¢ a box, and there are cigarettes for sale from all over the world, including Indonesia and India.

Across Plymouth at Mrs. Rooney's in the Courtyard Shops, I found the sort of simple but distinctive can't-go-wrong coordinates that men seek when trying to buy clothes for women, as well as a few more unusual pieces. Hand-painted vests and sweaters in the Gypsies Art to Wear line from North Carolina ($56–$135) are the sort of thing you might find at the Art Fair, and a good gift for the stylish ecologist would be recycled wool sweaters from Kristi Rose ($58).

SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE displays all the creativity and all the mindless consumerism of today's U-M student body itself. It's the obvious place to go when buying gifts for young people. The Earport has much more than just earrings. I liked a blue-glaze earthenware vase attended by two matched swans: $156 for the whole kit and caboodle. Frank Lloyd Wright art glass panels that reproduce original window and interior glass designs from famous Wright buildings are said to be selling very well; they cost from $30 to $90. Glaze the eyes of your U-M sports addict even more heavily with Ulrich's U-M Men's Basketball computer screen saver, at $13.95. (It includes a current basketball schedule.)

At Y.C.I. clothing, my eye fell on a group of velvet scarves ($25). The young clerk, as if reading my mind, told me they work well, but totally differently, as gifts for men or women. For men, they're formal enough to be part of a business outfit,

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main street area association

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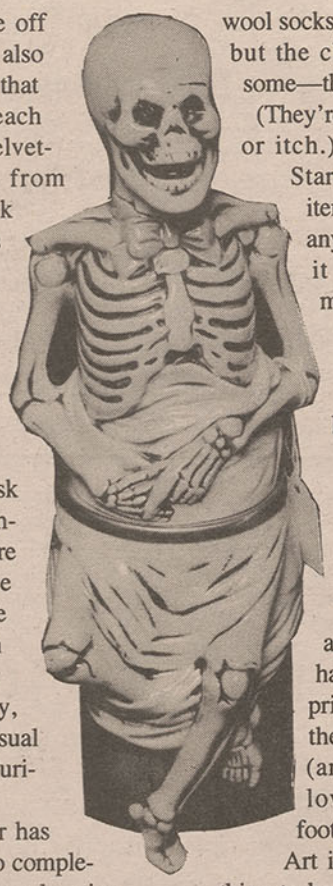
ANN ARBOR GIFTS

while for women they come off as campy and funky. Y.C.I. also has diaries and little purses that teenage girls like to give each other, and midnight-blue velvet-and-satin short dresses from XOXO that ought to knock 'em dead on New Year's Eve.

Splash is one of the best places in town to find the oversized Central American wool sweaters that Michigan winters make a necessity. And in general, if you're confused by the task of buying for a fashion-conscious young person, it's here that you have the best chance of striking it lucky. There are semi-grungy coats for both genders, loud polyester shirts, short-short corduroy, suede, and plastic skirts, unusual T-shirts in abundance, and Curious George greeting cards.



Suwanee Springs Leather has opened a store on South U to complement its venerable Liberty Street location, and there I found the Couture line of three-quarter-length leather car coats from J. Park, made from the silkiest leather you can imagine. They cost $455. Will someone buy one for me, please? The store also has shearling slippers for adults and kids, and elegant leather backpacks ($70 and up).

Middle Earth's embarrassment of holiday riches this year includes an incredible, bewitching variety of Day of the Dead paraphernalia from Mexico—mostly under $10. Archaic Smile lamps ($85) have unusual designs with childhood game themes on the shades (pick up sticks, for example), and there are painted wooden butterflies from Mexico for 75¢ each. Another reliable stop for gifts for the creative is the gift shop at the U-M Museum of Art, where the stock constantly changes according to what's currently on exhibit. At the moment there are gorgeous Venetian glass bowls for a mere $25 apiece, many African figures, and a large selection of art holiday cards.

On **STATE STREET,** Bivouac is rapidly expanding its customer base beyond campers and outdoorspeople. There's a lot of great Michigan cold-weather gear available for gift-giving. Try Wind Stopper hats ($23), shaped and lined for protection against the wind. Smartwool wool socks are steep at $16.50 a pair, but the clerk says they're "awesome—they don't feel like wool." (They're guaranteed not to shrink or itch.) The Strike Force Fire Starter system is a camping item that might be useful for any emergency supplies kit; it bills itself as "the last match you'll ever need."

Stroll Nickels Arcade and check out the very bizarre caricature collectible beer steins in the window of Maison Edwards, especially the skeleton seated on a barrel. These cost $195 and up, but they could turn out to be an investment as well as a gift; beer steins have appreciated reliably in price in recent years. Among the Caravan's many stuffed (and porcelain) animals, I loved a giant black bear footrest at $110.

Art is generally too personal a thing to be covered in a guide of this kind, but I thought the Japanese woodblock prints at the arcade's Barclay's II gallery might be an exception. At $500–$1,150 apiece, they seemed intricate enough to satisfy those who already know about them and classically harmonious enough to impress those who don't.

If you're going to give a tie, make it a really sharp one. Head for Marty's Menswear and check out their hand-painted silk ties by Chicago artist Robert Daskal ($65). Marty's has an interesting mix of classic men's clothes and up-to-the-minute fashion-plate stuff. In the latter category would be jean-style velvet trousers from Todd Oldham at $175.

The Kaleidoscope used bookstore is a place about which I hesitate to single out any one item, but it does have a whole rack of 1940's paperback novels with trashy "good-girl cover art" and lurid jacket blurbs: "The smell of stale bedrooms and warm gin hovered over that whole section of town. The women, even the young girls, walked a certain way, looked at men a certain way." Prices range from $1 to $50, and titles include works by such authors as Faulkner in addition to potboilers. The shop is also currently offering (for $150) a 1909 handmade crepe imitation of a U-M band uniform.

At Urban Outfitters, the store that turned broken window glass into a fashion

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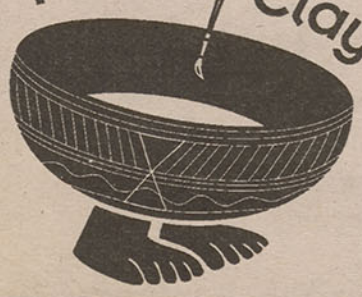

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statement, you can get everything from Conjunction Junction key rings (from the old "Schoolhouse Rock" TV show—already *the* Gen X nostalgia item) to fashionably clunky men's work boot–style shoes in the $100 range.

Around the corner on **LIBERTY STREET,** Kioti has Third World clothes, some love-

ly Native American turquoise earrings ($30 and up), and various eye-catching bronze animals if you're looking for something large. Schoolkids' and Borders offer CD boxed sets, appreciated by any music lover at holiday time. Schoolkids' currently has a set of country yodeler Slim Whitman's complete recordings, imported from Germany, for $150.99, or you might opt instead for the complete Bessie Smith (four volumes, $26.49 each). For bizarre old LP's, check the front window of Encore down Liberty Street. In November I saw one titled "Musette Catch (Wrestler's Musette)," with the cover art showing an accordionist in the grip of a wrestler. Lord knows what that's all about. Most LP's are in the $5–$20 range.

Harry's Army Surplus, for the martially inclined, has police batons for $13.98 (handcuffs: $3.89 a pair), tai-chi swords for $63.98, and a magnificent three-piece sword set with stand for $218.98.

Orchid Lane is another place to find big sweaters and midpriced ethnic clothing. Hand-batiked rayon sarongs from Bali cost $25 and would look terrific on any willowy female of your acquaintance; mukluk socks are $10. For vintage clothing that can run pretty far out into left field, try Scavenger Hunt farther down Liberty. Just to give you an idea, they have a rack of Oddfellows ritual gowns, vests, and helmets that they salvaged from a lodge somewhere in West Michigan. Prices run from $75 to $125.

At Kitchen Port in **KERRYTOWN,** a young German clerk showed me "a French press coffeepot that really looks French"—the Bodum classic model

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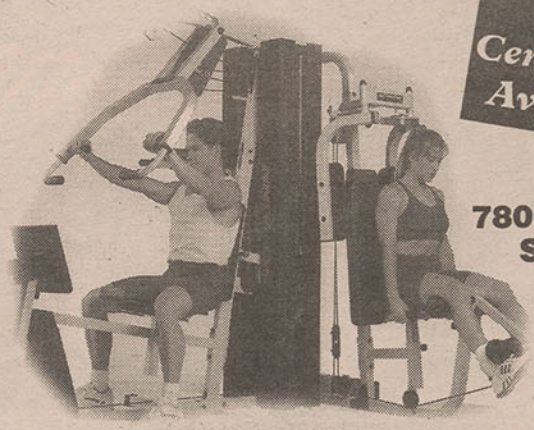

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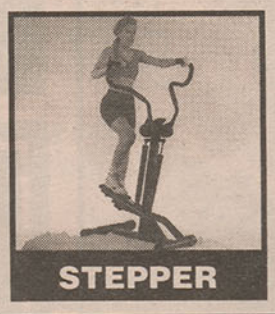

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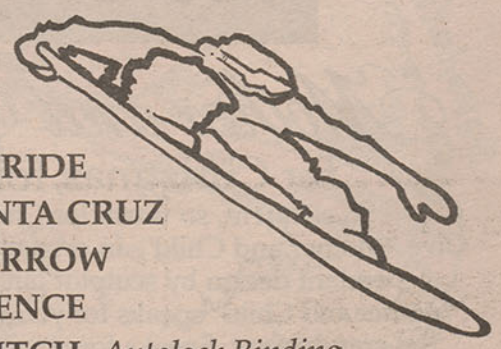

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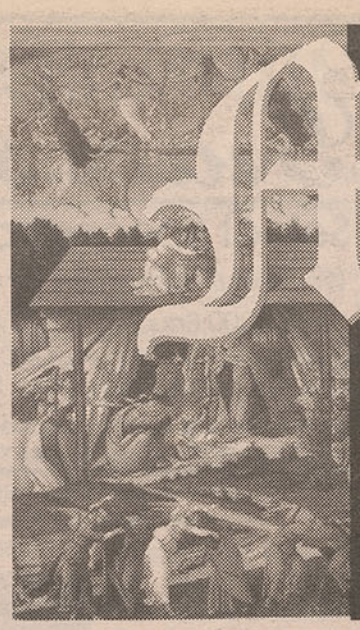
($59.98). Its elegant handles are made of copper-colored plastic. The Krups Open Master can opener (not a very romantic gift, but handy for anybody) not only opens cans of any shape or size but also eliminates the hazardous metal edges that most other openers produce. A better mousetrap indeed, it costs $34.98. Vintage to Vogue, in addition to clothing, offers little wood, paint, and lacquer statues from Switzerland of girls holding brightly colored flowers that are bigger than the girls themselves. Priced at $22 and located right by the door, they'll be gone before long.

Zingerman's is a trove of items you might never buy for yourself but would be delighted to receive. Many people forget how pleasant an afternoon cup of tea can be, but a bag of Zingerman's own excellent line ($5–$10 for 2–4 ounces) ought to remind them. And the People's Food Co-op on **NORTH FOURTH AVENUE** usually has a few rotating gift items by the front register that are worth a glance. (Right now they have organic cotton sweatshirts at $26.39.)

Downtown you can spend pennies or spend a bundle. For those who absolutely, positively must have the very best, Austin Diamond Company on **WASHINGTON STREET** is currently in possession of a 16.33 carat Paraiba tourmaline in the rare "neon green" color; this little rock will set you back $44,200. Christmas earrings of ruby-colored rhodolite garnet, green tourmaline, yellow sapphire, and diamonds set in 18 karat yellow gold will decorate your sweetie to the max for only $6,360 a pair.

Almost everyone has a mystery buff to shop for, and Aunt Agatha's bookshop on **SOUTH FOURTH AVENUE** is the obvious place to go. Signed copies of Susan Holtzer's Ann Arbor mystery *Bleeding Maize and Blue* are in



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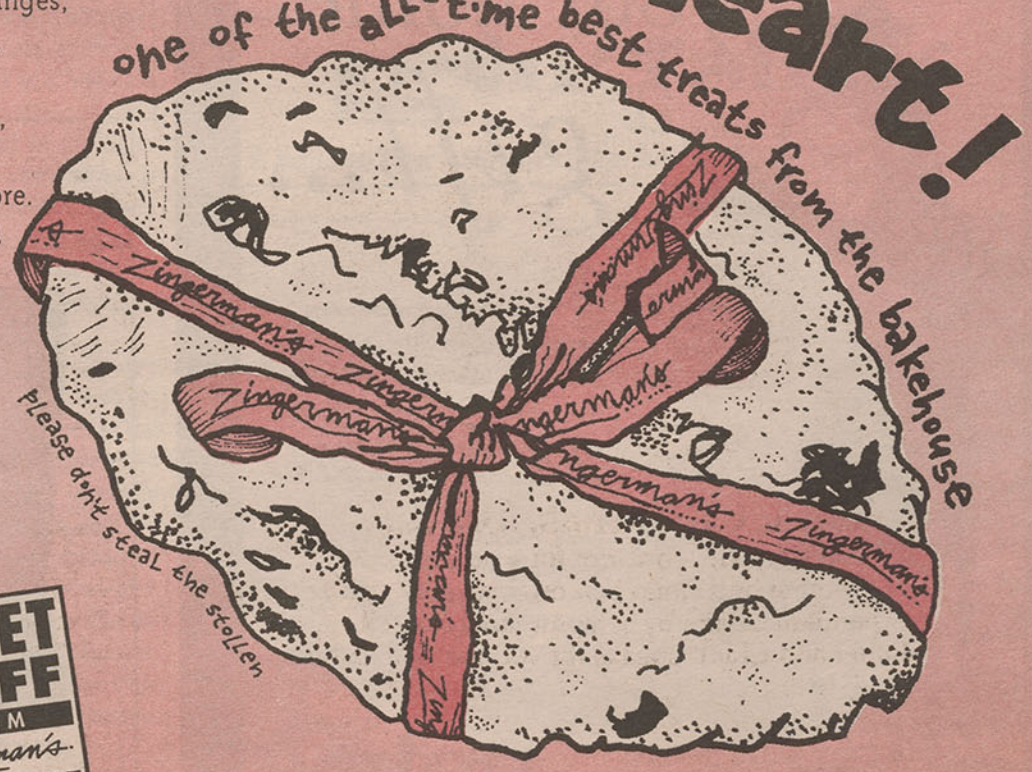

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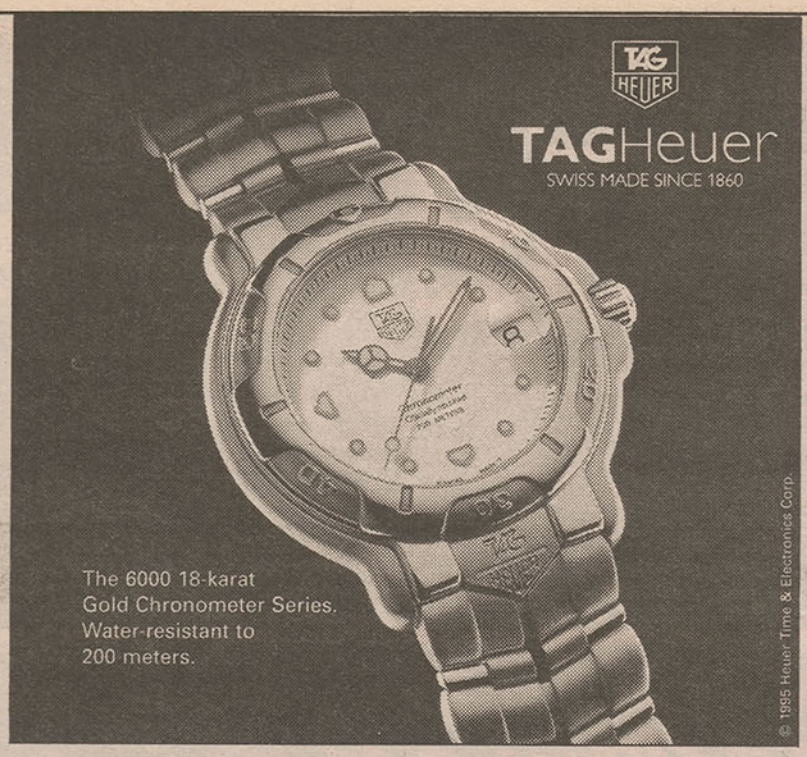

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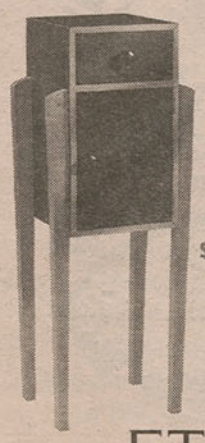

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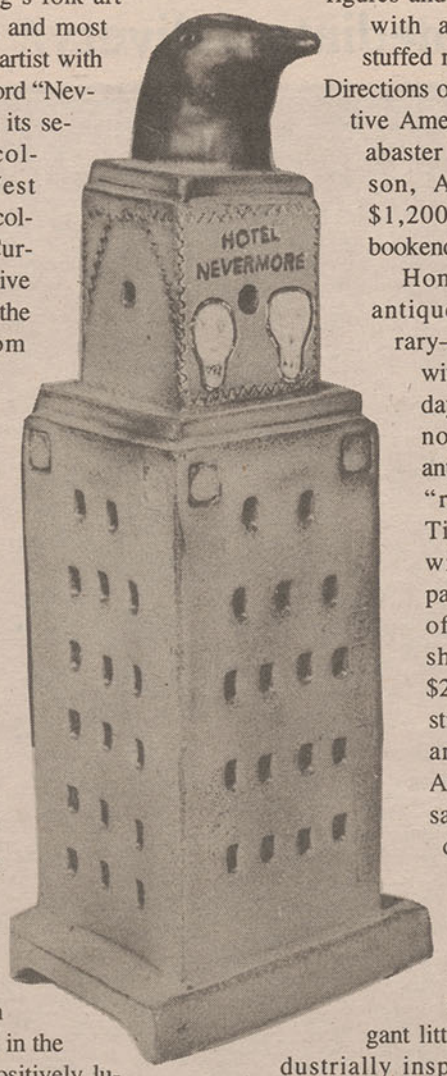
stock at $22.95, and Sherlock Holmes umbrellas are $55.00, pipe and all. At neighboring Common Language bookstore, an excellent gift that could serve the recipient throughout the holiday party season might be "C'est la Vie—The Game of Lesbian Life." It costs $35.

On **WEST LIBERTY,** the Conservatory is offering 1997 calendar posters on which each day is represented by that day's moon phase. It's beautiful to look at. At the Ann Arbor Art Center, I especially liked Douglas Spaulding's folk-art skyscrapers ($60–$85), and most of all a tile by the same artist with a raven and the single word "Nevermore." In addition to its selection of used and collectible books, the West Side Bookshop hosts a collection of Edward S. Curtis's photographs of Native Americans from around the year 1910. Priced from $500 to $4,500, they're real rarities and extraordinary documents.



I have bought many a gift at Selo/Shevel on the corner of Liberty and **MAIN STREET,** and if you've got the wherewithal, their handwoven scarves can't be topped. Look around—there are a couple of racks of just scarves, but they tend to be draped over other items around the store as well. A group in stock now from weaver Randall Darwall in the $165–$190 range are positively luminescent. Selo/Shevel's second gallery down the block has two extremely unusual glass menorahs in which the candleholders are mounted on individual hand, leaf, and fish shapes; they cost $475 and $875.

If you only visit Fantasy Attic at Halloween, you're missing out on a whole range of possibilities for other holidays. This shop has, for example, more different kinds of hats than anywhere else in southeastern Michigan—and what's a costume to one hat lover may be the perfect fashion touch to another. Most hats here are inexpensive, many around $20.

The most unusual items at Collected Works are a group of brocaded silk, rayon, and velvet dresses from Uru ($202–$228); they're various shades of green, and the clerk, when pressed, described their style as "Renaissance." They almost, but not quite, look like something off a Shakespearean stage—a daring gift for a daring woman. They're at the very back of the store.

For pet lovers, look no further than Wilkinson Luggage and their Sherpa Bag pet carriers ($70). They're lined and mesh-sided so your pet can see out, and they have both a carrying handle and a shoulder strap. Thanks to efforts by the bag's designer, several airlines accept only this carrier for pet carry-on. Wilkinson's also has a nifty computer backpack ($190) and an alarm clock that sets in motion a noisy train locomotive ($39.95).

The Generations kids' store has a great selection of Playmobil's real-life action figures and accessories, along with a gorgeous giant stuffed mosquito ($6). Four Directions offers among its Native American pieces an alabaster buffalo by a Tucson, Arizona, artist at $1,200. Polished agate bookends are $6 a pound.

Home furnishings—antique and contemporary—are very popular with Main Street's Friday night crowd right now. Arcadian Too antiques has intriguing "reverse-painted" Tiffany-style lamps with natural scenes painted on the inside of the frosted glass shade; they run $245–$535. Intricately stitched antique quilts are $495–$895. At Atys, there's a Parmesan cheese grater enclosed in a half-case that fits comfortably in the palm of your hand. It costs $51.75 and makes for an elegant little sample of the industrially inspired, ultramodern wares found there.

Peaceable Kingdom offers Gladys Goose ($32), a large white goose with an on/off light switch that you can set in the window of your office to announce your presence to the world. And for someone who has been feeling out of touch with the modern world, I'd suggest a spread of magazines from Main Street News—pick and choose from such titles as *Arts and the Internet, Lies, Aberrations, La Cucina Italiana, Intelligent Gamer, Cups: The Cafe Culture Magazine, Stop Smiling, Massage, Vagabond Monthly,* and *Interrace.*

And for someone who wants a mental journey as far as possible from the modern world, step across to Falling Water Books and Collectables, where they sell fossils in polished Moroccan rock. They start at $10, which seems cheap for something that's 350,000,000 years old. That's a true classic in my book.

May you have a happy interlude this year's end, whatever your celebration! And to all, a good night. ❄

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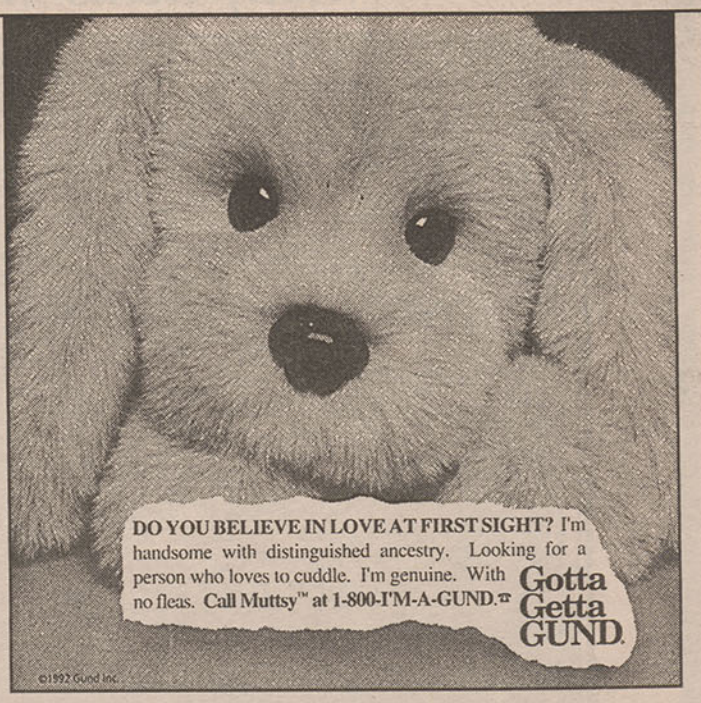
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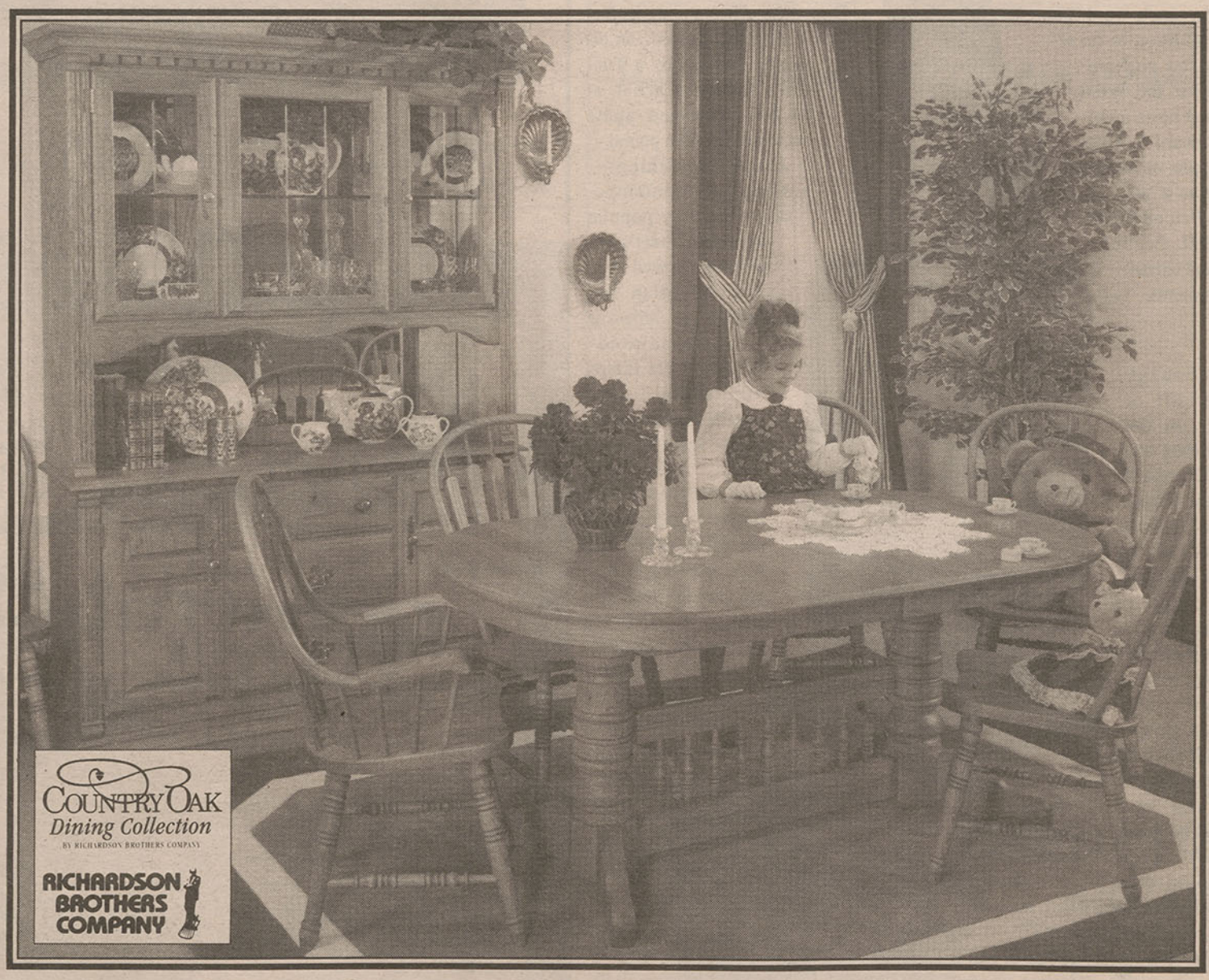

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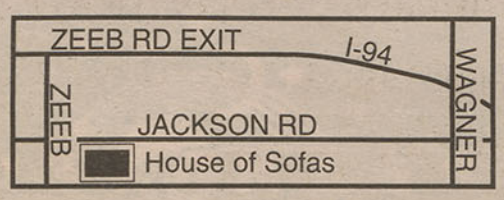

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STORE HOURS

Monday, Thursday, Friday 10-8 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Saturday 10-6 pm
Sunday 12-6 pm

Follow Balloons and Arrow Trails to:

ART DAY

Open Studios, Galleries and Art Events Throughout the Area

DECEMBER 7-8 ▪ 12-5PM

ARTISTS & STUDIOS:

1. Vicki Schwager's Home Studio-
Contemporary art jewelry & unusual art neckpieces- annual home show: "Chocolate. 'Bubbly' & Jewels" 350 Rock Creek (near Geddes & Hill St.) 761-5095
Lori Pickard and Susan Butterwick- "Mimi and Hattie's Artistic Wall Painting and Room Designs"

2. Mowtawi Tileworks-
Ann Arbor's premier art tile studio shows its latest designs along with studio tourist demonstrations. 33 N. Staebler, Suite 2, (off Jackson Rd. between Zeeb and Baker) 213-0017

3. Falcone Studio-
Nature oriented studio of 2 naturalists. 7400 Plymouth Rd. (Corner of Prospect, 4 miles east of US -23) 995-1681
Susan Falcone- watercolor
Tom McClanahan- photography

4. Jane Coates-
Decorative florals, oil on canvas. 1834 Mershon (north of Scio Church) 668-7656

5. Kathleen Kazmierski's Home Studio-
Watercolor and Mixed Media
130 N. Mansfield, Ypsilanti, (between Cross and Congress) 483-7647

6. Kay Yourist Pottery Design-
Decorative functional ceramics
722 Packard (south of the Packard & State intersection) 662-4914

7. Karen Dean-
Landscapes and florals in various media, jewelry. 2882 Baylis (off Eisenhower, between King George & Stone School Rd.) 973-8026

8. Kyle Connolly-
Architectural ornamental blacksmith
1321 Fountain St. (far north end- off Miller, near Sunset) 761-1235
Sharon Donovan- Jewelry

9. Carol Morris Rose Ave. Studio-
Mixed media from 10 artists. 912 Rose Ave. 761-5616

10. Performance Annex/ Technology Ctr.-
Orin Buck- painting & video, studio 22
Sharon Drobny- contemporary baskets, studio 40
Betsy Duwe- natural fiber garments, studio 40, dyed originals
Marion Marzolf- handwovens, dolls, studio 40
Jane Bunge Noffke- figurative bronze sculptures, studio
Lisa Olson- mixed media, studio 15
Janie Paul- landscape paintings & monotypes, studio 29
Esther Schooler- artist's books, studio 35d
Sally Silvennoinen- character dolls, studio 17
Bev Walker- colorist landscapes, 21c
Joyce Tinkham- beadwork and wearables, studio 17
Bobbi Wigle Justice- music and creative arts therapy, studio 18
Kathleen Moore- music therapy and vocal therapist, studio 20b
Ann C. Cooper- mixed media, abstract & figurative, studio 21a. One large, old, yellowish building on the corner of Huron & Third. 410 W. Washington (between 1st & 3rd) 668-0327

11. Sarah Lee Teraphim-
Polymer & sterling jewelry, hand dyed clothing, mixed media figures, ceramic artware. 632 S. 1st Street (corner of 1st & Mosley) 930-9783
Helen Bunch- organic sterling jewelry
Bill Gross- hand dyed clothing
Bonnie Penet- mixed media figures
Margo West- ceramic artware

12. Angie Nagle Miller Studio-
Casein watercolors, silk, dolls
615 Riverview Drive (nearest cross street Geddes Ave.) 663-2825

13. Nina Howard Studio-
Mixed media on paper and canvas and handmade greeting cards
409 N. Fourth Avenue (across from Kerrytown shops) 747-8517

14. Whitney Thompson Furniture-
Custom wood furniture. 3115 Broad St., Dexter (between Main & Forest) 426-9060
Jason Eyster- Musical instruments

15. Mystic Visions/Annie M. & Others-
Mixed media, including sculptures, masks and jewelry. 509 Spring Rd. (3 blocks west of Main St., 1 1/2 blocks north of Miller) 663-3532

16. Darwin's Stained Glass Studio-
Stained glass windows, Tiffany lamps, small hangings, jewelry. 9080 Beeman Rd., Chelsea, MI
West on I-94 to Chelsea exit #159
North on M-52 (Mainstreet) to left on Waterloo Rd., 5 miles to right on Beeman Rd. Darwin's Studio is 1 mile on the left. 475-9730

17. Higher's Pottery- Stan Baker
Functional pottery
829 S. Main (Hill & Main) 995-1627

18. Jesse Richards-
Small indoor sculptural fountains and jewelry. 1221 Prospect (between Wells & E. University) 995-2972

19. Carol Furtado Studio-
Woven chenilles fiberworks
401 Maple Ridge. 663-7114
Susan Murphy- Festive handfelted hats
Janet Kelman- Glass ornaments and bowls

20. Karen Izenberg Studio-
Painting and collage. 417 Detroit St. (across from Zingerman's)

21. Generations- Leslie Kagan
Let's Pretend Dramatic Playclothes, Children's Fantasy Playclothes
337 S. Main St. (Main & Williams) 741-0314

22. Washtenaw Council for the Arts at the Riverside Arts Center-
Doris Malfese- Photography
Mundos Afuera-Alicia Conger- Clay
Jana Conger- Contemporary watercolor- natural subjects
Shirley Miki de Moraes- Jewelry
Crooked Lake Studios- Kilnformed glass, handbuilt ceramics
Pam Craven- Clay
Giedra Ausra Berzanskis- Fashion design and illustration
Jeanne Adwani- Figurative fiber art and multi-media gourds
Imagine-Dave and Kami Turner- Hand-made beads
Alice Cerniglia- Painted furniture and mixed media
Works by photographers of the Ann Arbor News-
Mudd House- Works by Ypsilanti artists
Bonnie Penet- Mixed media figures
Carolyn McKeever- Mixed media, oil, and watercolor
76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti (between Michigan Ave. & Cross St.) 484-4882

GALLERIES:

23. Artful Exchange Gallery-
Specializing in resale of fine art and selected area artists.
215 E. Washington, 761-2287

24. Selo/Shevel Gallery- Jewelry & glass. 335 S. Main, 761-6263

25. Selo/Shevel Gallery-
Contemporary American crafts & imported folk art. 301 S. Main (at Liberty) 761-4620

26. DeBoer Gallery- Colorful, whimsical: furniture, sculpture, jewelry & painting. 303 Detroit St., Suite 106 (at Market Place) 741-1257

27. Ann Arbor Art Center- "Bringing Art Alive! through year-round exhibition, adult and youth education and community outreach programs."
117 W. Liberty (at Liberty & Ashley Streets) 994-8004

28. The Michigan Guild Gallery-
Fund-raiser gallery sale.
118 N. Fourth Ave. (between Ann St. & Huron St.) 662-3382

29. 16 Hands- An eclectic collection of fine crafts, furniture, lighting and gifts. Representing nearly 500 American artists. 216 S. Main, (between Liberty & Washington) 761-1110

30. Ford Gallery at Eastern Michigan University- Ceramic vessels by regional women artists.
Susan Beiner, Rebecca Harvey, Annette Siffin
Eastern Michigan University
(Free parking for this event is available next to the water tower on Cross Street)

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Saturday and Sunday:

31. Sunday Children's parade-
12:30 pm downtown Ann Arbor

32. Motawi Tileworks- Tours of studio, and children's activities include crayon rubbings and visiting with the studio rabbit. Overrun Room will be open, featuring extra tile from Motawi installation projects at up to 70% off the regular price.

33. Ed Simpson Commemorative Exhibition- the Atrium at 301 S. Main St., Ann Arbor

34. Expanded Sunday Artisans Market at Kerrytown-

35. Potters Guild semi-annual sale
201 Hill St., Ann Arbor, 663-4970

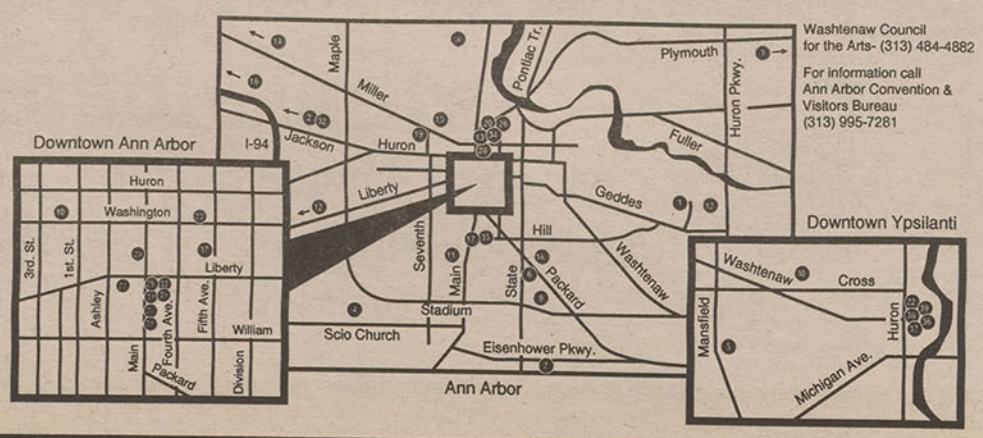
36. Art Center's Holiday Gifts and Children's programs
117 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor, 994-8004

37. Ann Arbor Theatre and Riverside Art Center- Art work by Washtenaw County school children.
201 S. 5th Ave., Ann Arbor, 12-5 pm

38. The Mudd House & The Green Room- Food and refreshments at the Riverside Arts Center will be available. 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti

39. Music Provided By:
Skylark
Ann Arbor Power Project
Solstice: Tom Fivenson and Jake Reichbort, Stephanie Ozer and Nan Nelson, Gale Benson
Will be located at the Atrium at 301 S. Main St. (Ann Arbor) and at the Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., (Ypsilanti) alternating schedule.

main street area association



Washtenaw Council for the Arts- (313) 484-4882

For information call Ann Arbor Convention & Visitors Bureau (313) 995-7281

mca michigan council for arts and cultural affairs

HOLIDAY EVENTS

December 1 Holiday Events

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. Every Sunday through December 22. A wide variety of fine arts and crafts by local artisans. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Farmers' Market (Kerrytown). Free admission. Artists interested in exhibiting should call Marilyn Mattingly at (313) 453–2606.*

Country Craft Show: Homespun Creations. Crafters from throughout the Midwest and Pennsylvania offer holiday items and more. Includes a country market featuring Michigan products and holiday greens and wreaths. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $2 admission. Wheelchair-accessible; no strollers. 429–5922.*

"Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Ann Arbor Parks Department. December 1 & 8. Re-creation of a 19th-century Christmas, with traditional decorations, Christmas caroling, musical entertainment, craft activities for kids, and freshly baked holiday treats. Tours are available. *1–5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $2. (families, $8; children under 3, free). 994–2928.*

★22nd Annual Kiwanis Christmas Sing: Western Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. More than 500 usually attend this family-oriented event. Kiwanis members Jeff Crause and Charlie Phibbs lead the audience in a sing-along of favorite Christmas carols. Jim Leaffe accompanies on the Barton Theater organ. Also, a visit from Santa and guest performances by Three Men and a Tenor, a popular area male vocal quartet, and U-M law professor Bev Pooley, who reads *The Night Before Christmas*. Emcee is Kool 107 radio personality Lucy Ann Lance. All invited to come early at noon and help the Michigan Theater decorate its Christmas tree. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668–8397.*

★Christmas Concert: Our Own Thing Chorale. U-M music school dean Willis Patterson directs this local chorus in a program of seasonal music, with an emphasis on carols composed and/or arranged by African-Americans. *5 p.m. (tentative time), Bethel A.M.E. Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free. 677–4407.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. Nightly through December 31. Ypsilanti's Riverside Park is transformed into a wintry fantasia by more than 50,000 lights on trees and in illuminated displays. Every year, more than 150,000 visitors walk or drive through the park. Horse-drawn wagon rides on Saturdays. *6–10 p.m., Riverside Park, off Cross St., Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Free. 483–4444.*

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. Nightly through December 31. Some 900,000 lights are used to decorate the trees and grounds of Domino's Farms in this annual holiday show. Includes a **Living Nativity** complete with live animals, an indoor **Festival of Trees** featuring decorated Christmas trees, and a **creche display.** *Nightly 6–10 p.m., Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Admission $5 (Mon.–Thurs.), $7 (Fri.–Sun.) per vehicle; $50 per bus. 668–1800.*

December 2–3 Holiday Events

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

December 4 Holiday Events

Holiday Arts & Crafts & Baked Goods Sale: Northeast Seniors. Sale of woodcrafts, paintings, drawings, painted sweatshirts, jewelry, and more. *8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Domino's Farms Lobby D & E (1st bldg.), 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free admission. 996–0070.*

"Christmas Cookies": Kitchen Port. Carroll Thomson of Carroll's Corner shows how to make some of her delicious and unusual cookies. *Noon–1 p.m., Kitchen Port (Kerrytown). $5 includes coffee, taste samples, and recipes. 665–9188.*

14th Annual Christmas Creche Display, Dec. 6–9.

★Advent Concert Series: First Congregational Church. December 4, 11, & 18. First in a series of three Advent season concerts. Today: Donald Williams directs the **American Chorale of Sacred Music,** an independent local chorus, in a program of seasonal music. *12:15–12:45 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at S. State. Free. 662–1679.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

December 5 Holiday Events

48th Annual Greens Market: Women's Farm and Garden Association. A wide selection of fresh greenery, including variegated and green holly, incense cedar, boxwood, and other specialty greens. Also, handmade gifts and crafts, and a raffle. Proceeds benefit local nonprofit organizations. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 769–0691.*

"Advent Noon Recital Series": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum. December 5, 12, & 19. Today: Donald Williams directs the **American Chorale of Sacred Music,** an independent local chorus, in a program of seasonal music. All invited. *Noon–1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church social hall, 1432 Washtenaw. $3 (includes buffet lunch). 662–4466.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

December 6 Holiday Events

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. December 6 & 7. This extremely popular sale includes used Christmas decorations. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Kiwanis Activities Center, W. Washington at First. Free admission. 665–0450.*

★14th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. December 6–9. One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit features almost 800 creches (Nativity scenes) from 77 countries collected or designed by women of the church. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, cornhusks, and paper, and styles range from simple childlike figures to hand-carved traditional figures to elegant original designs. Today's program includes a **Christmas concert** (7:30–8:30 p.m.). *10 a.m.–9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 665–7852, 668–2477, 663–3699 (days).*

★21st Annual Christmas Parade and Santa's Village: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. Saline pulls out the stops to welcome Old St. Nick with a **parade** down Michigan Avenue ending in a **tree-lighting ceremony** (7 p.m.). Other festivities include a **pre-parade party** with Mrs. Claus, elves, entertainment, and gifts for kids (4:45–6:45 p.m., Saline Shopping Center), a performance by the renowned **Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic** (8 p.m., Union School), and a **Saline Historical Society open house** (4:30–10 p.m., Depot Museum). Also, **"Santa's Village"** at the Murphy's Crossing mall (103 S. Ann Arbor) features visits from Mrs. Claus (6 p.m.), Santa (8 p.m.), and live entertainment. Shuttle buses run throughout the afternoon. *4:30–10 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. 429–4494.*

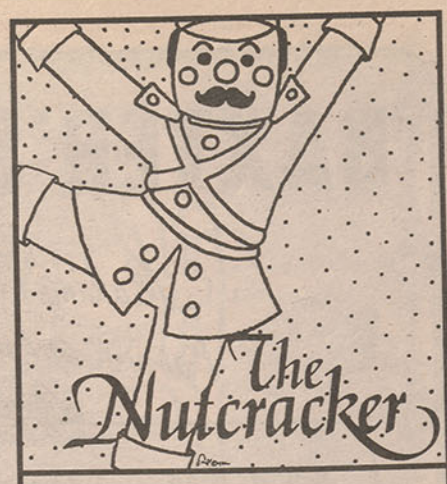
★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

"Midnight Madness!" Most stores in the Main Street, State Street, South University, and Kerrytown shopping areas are open tonight until midnight to kick off the downtown holiday shopping season. *7 p.m.–midnight, downtown Ann Arbor.*

★Caroling Party: Kempf House Center for Local History. All invited to gather at this historic home and warm up your voices around the newly tuned 1877 Steinway piano before heading out into the streets to sing Christmas carols with the Salvation Army brass band. *7 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994–4898.*

19th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. December 6–8. A cast of some 175 Concordia students and staff and area children presents this traditional pageant



Ann Arbor Ballet Theatre

Carol A. Radovic, Artistic Director

with the
MICHIGAN SINFONIETTA,

Dec. 12th 7pm
Dec. 13th 8pm
Dec. 14th 2pm
Dec. 14th 8pm

Adults $18
Children $8
Special Rates for Seniors and Students

Tickets are available at the
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(313) 763–TKTS

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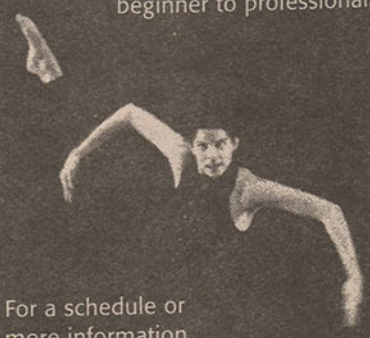
Classes for children through adults, beginner to professional.



For a schedule or more information, call 313/747-8885.

Dance Gallery Studio
111 S. Third, off Huron
(free parking on-site)

Home of Dance Gallery/ Peter Sparling & Co.

photo: Glenn Bering

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Schnitz Brod	Cinnamon Stars	Holiday Cookies
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M-F 6:30am - 9:30pm
Sat. 8:00am - 9:30pm
Sun. 9:00am - 6:00pm

KeyBank

The Lights Before Christmas at The Toledo Zoo

New Action Figures! More Lights!

All at The Toledo Zoo!

This year's festive celebration is open one week earlier. Beginning **November 22 through December 31,** the "Lights" will be open **5:00 - 8:30 p.m.** *(the display will be closed November 28, December 24 and December 25).*

Due to construction, visitors will not be able to drop off guests at the Trail entrance. Those dropping off guests are encouraged to do so at the Broadway entrance.

Group rates are available in advance.
For more information, call (419) 385-5721.

The "Lights Before Christmas" is presented by KeyBank with additional support from Toledo Edison and Toledo 11 The News Channel.

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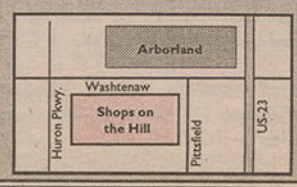

Christmas Celebration Presents

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAY

at Domino's Farms, Ann Arbor

- **Over 900,000 Lights**
- **Giant "Holiest of Nights" Illumination**
- **Cyber Light Display**
- **Indoor Displays & Activities**
- **Pizza & Hot Drinks Available**
- **Live Nativity Scene (Fri/Sat)**

Tour the lights outdoors, then stop indoors...

$5/ vehicle Mon - Thur $7 Fri - Sun

November 22 - December 31
Nightly 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Take US 23 to Exit 41, then 1/2 mi East - follow the signs to Domino's Farms on Earhart Rd, North of Plymouth Rd.

For more information, Call (313) 668-1800

http://christmas.branch.com

Proceeds from the Christmas Light Display benefit charities.
Christmas Celebration is a non-profit 501 (C) (3) corporation

HOLIDAY EVENTS

allegorizing Christ's victory over the forces of sin and death. Originating in medieval England, the Boar's Head festival offers colorfully dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other characters from the medieval court, along with the traditional shepherds and wise men of Christmas lore. The ferocious wild boar came to symbolize Satan, and its slaying represented the triumph of good over evil. This immensely popular event sells out in advance year after year. *7 p.m., Concordia College Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $8 (Dec. 7 dinner & performance, $30) in advance at the Kreft Center box office. Phone reservations accepted beginning November 27. 995–4612.*

Concordia College's Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 6–8.

December 7 Holiday Events

Holiday Open House: Nielsen's Flowers. December 7 & 8. Sale of numerous poinsettias and other plants, gifts, Kwanzaa decorations, gardening angel ornaments, and Christopher Radko ornaments. Refreshments and door prizes. *8:30 a.m.–6 p.m., Nielsen's, 1021 Maiden Lane. Free admission. 994–6112.*

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. See 6 Friday. 9 a.m.–noon.

Annual Holiday Bazaar and Children's Festival: Rudolf Steiner School. Handmade ornaments, wreaths, dolls, and wooden toys made by school parents according to Rudolf Steiner's educational principles. Also, a children's activity corner where kids can make gifts to take home. *9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995–4141.*

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new, including Georgia O'Keeffe's photo album *O'Keeffe at Abiquir,* a well-illustrated little book entitled *Pussyfooting: Essential Dance Steps for Cats,* a mint-condition 1917 Jello recipe book, several Baedeker travel guides from 1905–1913, and more. There is a separate room with children's books in mint condition (limit of 3 children's books per family). *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. Free admission. 994–2333.*

Annual Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. December 7 & 8. A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Offers a diverse range of functional and decorative ceramics by local artists. Also, a children's corner, with gifts priced for their budgets. Arrive early for the best selection. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., 201 Hill St. Free admission. 663–4970.*

"Santa Paws": Humane Society of Huron Valley. December 7, 8, & 14. A chance—probably your only chance—to have your pet's photo taken with Santa Claus. Dogs must be leashed, and other pets must be transported in a carrier; no dogs allowed on December 8. *10 a.m.–6 p.m., empty storefront next to Huron Pet Supply, Fountain Square Plaza, 2900 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti. $8 for one 3 1/4" x 4 1/4" matted photo or two wallet-sized photos, $15 for all three photos. Appointments required. 662–5585, ext. 103.*

★**14th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 6 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

Today's Brass Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House "Croissant Concert." A popular holiday tradition featuring this brass quintet made up of area professionals, who perform seasonal music, classics, and pop tunes, concluding with a sing-along to Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus. *11 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $9 & $12. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Holiday Walk and Open House: The Courtyard Shops. Walk through the festively decorated mall and collect validations on a "bingo card" to earn a discount coupon. Also, Santa is on hand to visit with little ones and hand out candy canes. *Noon–4 p.m., The Courtyard Shops, 1655–1759 Plymouth Rd. Free admission. 663–8000.*

★**Victorian Christmas Open House: Waterloo Area Farm Museum.** December 7 & 8. This mid-19th-century pioneer homestead is decked out with Victorian-style greenery and decorations and a feather Christmas tree. Attractions include demonstrations, refreshments, and tours. *Noon–5 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Jackson. (Take I-94 west to exit 153 and follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) Admission $1 (families, $4). 769–2219, (517) 596–2254.*

"Holiday Gift Workshops": Ann Arbor Art Center. December 7, 14, & 21. Kids ages 6–12 can make one of a variety of gifts, plus handmade gift wrapping and cards. *1–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. $12 (Art Center members, $10) plus $5 materials fee. Preregistration required. 994–8004.*

Open House: Kempf House Center for Local History. December 7, 8, 14, & 15. Guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home. The house is decorated in Victorian fashion for the holidays by Gabriel Richard High School German class students. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Admission $1 (children 5 & under, free). 994–4898.*

"A Nicaraguan Christmas": First Baptist Church/Northside Community Church/ Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Musicians from these three local congregations join forces for a musical celebration of their sister church relationships with churches in three Nicaraguan cities. Proceeds go to various educational, economic, and medical projects. *3–5 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. $5 (children, $2) suggested donation. 663–9376, 662–6351, 665–4734.*

★**Holiday Concert.** Pianist Julianne Markavitch offers a recital of "joyful family fare and fine music." *4 p.m., University Lutheran Chapel, 1511 Washtenaw. Free. 741–0754.*

★**"Holly Days": Dexter Chamber of Commerce.** The 2nd annual Light Parade, featuring cars and other vehicles decked out in Christmas lights, is followed by a community carol sing at Monument Park. Also, merchants hold special sales today and Santa makes a gala arrival. *6 p.m., downtown Dexter. Free. 426–0887, 426–4991.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

"St. Joe's Holiday in Venice": 20th Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Benefit Ball. The sights and sounds of Venice are featured at this year's festivities, which include musical entertainment, a gourmet dinner, and dancing. *7 p.m.--1 a.m., Michigan League. Tickets $750 & $1,000 per couple. For reservations, call 712–3192.*

19th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. See 6 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Christmas at Our Place, or, What I Did on My Christmas Vacation": Varsity Blues and

Join us for our Advent series, "Are you ready for Christmas?"

Give the gift of love
THIS CHRISTMAS
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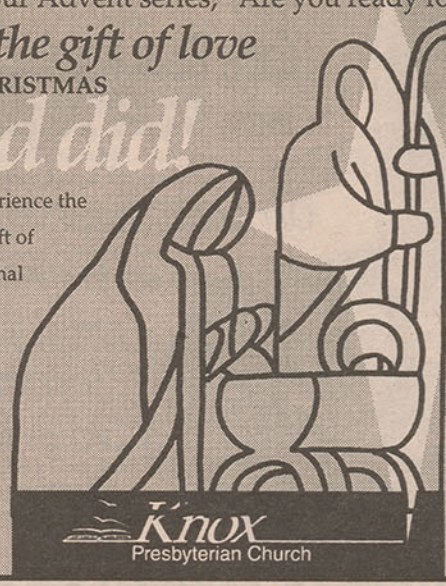

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HOLIDAY EVENTS

Ann Arbor Ballet Theater's "The Nutcracker," Dec. 12–14.

Company. December 7 & 8. This Saline-area youth company performs a musical revue of seasonal songs, dances, and original skits. *7:30 p.m., Saline High School Auditorium, Saline. Tickets $4 at the door. 429–2103.*

★**"30 Minutes of Holiday Cheer": The Ypsilanti High School Chamber Singers.** The acclaimed Ypsilanti High School Chamber Singers present their 1996–1997 season premiere concert. *7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Student Chapel (EMU campus), 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 483–9785.*

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. December 7 & 8. This annual performance of Handel's well-loved religious oratorio has been an Ann Arbor tradition since 1879. Thomas Sheets directs the 250-voice **UMS Choral Union** and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.** *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $8–$16 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

December 8 Holiday Events

★**14th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 6 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

Holiday Open House: Nielsen's Flowers. See 7 Saturday. 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

December 9 Holiday Events

★**14th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 6 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

Alternative Holiday Fair: First Baptist Church/Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. Offers handmade arts and crafts from Third World countries, a chance to sponsor live farm animals (on hand and available for petting) to go to needy farms, and other items to benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. *Note:* ICPJ sponsors a carpool today (4 p.m.) to Detroit to hear a talk by **Jennifer Harbury,** the American wife of a murdered Guatemalan resistance leader. *2–6 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 665–1870.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

December 10 Holiday Events

★**Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** December 10 & 14. This month's special activities include a **"Small Gift Workshop."** Participants make two small gifts (with wrappings) from recycled materials. *1–4 p.m., Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994–2807.*

Gift Basket Sale and Silent Auction: Lawton School. Sale of assorted "theme" gift baskets filled with goodies ranging from Michigan wear to books, videos, Beanie Babies, Christmas ornaments, jewelry, gardening items, and gift certificates. Also, a silent auction (7–8:30 p.m.) of goods and services. *5–7 p.m. (viewing), 7–9 p.m. (sale), Lawton School, 2250 S. Seventh Ave. Free admission. 995–1946.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

December 11 Holiday Events

★**Advent Concert Series: First Congregational Church.** See 4 Wednesday. Today: Gini Robison directs the local **Women's Chamber Chorus.** Also, Luebeck's "Christmas Cantata," with violinists Joyce Kerr and Joan Stahman and organist Anna Eggert, and the **Chambermaids,** the chorus's vocal sextet, performs. 12:15–12:45 p.m.

Annual Christmas Auction: American Business Women's Association Embers Chapter. Dinner and auction of mostly handmade goods donated by ABWA members. Proceeds benefit ABWA's scholarships for college women. *6 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $20 dinner cost (no charge for admission to the auction). For reservations, call Kimberly Johnson at 741–5858.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

December 12 Holiday Events

"Home for the Holidays": Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. A tour of four area homes decorated for the holidays by professional designers. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. *10 a.m.–3 p.m. & 5–8 p.m., various locations. Tickets and maps $15, available in advance at all Dough Boys outlets and other area stores, or by writing Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group, P.O. Box 2334, Ann Arbor 48106–2334. 741–9640.*

"Advent Noon Recital Series": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum. See 5 Thursday. Today: First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn directs the church's chancel choir and soloists in a movement from Rachmaninoff's Vespers and the contemporary American composer Gerald Near's carol-based cantata "Cum Nuovo Cantico" (see 22 Sunday listing). Noon–1 p.m.

★**Choral Connection: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art.** Carolyn Burnstein directs this local choral group in a playful program of seasonal music. *12:10 p.m., University Hospital 1st-floor lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**Boychoir of Ann Arbor: Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party.** The Boychoir's preparatory choir, an ensemble of boys ages 8–11, performs a program of holiday music. Tom Strode directs. *4:15–5:30 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**Annual Caroling Party and Luminaria Display: Glacier Hills Retirement Center.** Some 1,000 luminaria (traditional Mexican Christmas lights) create a Christmas glow at this community sing-along. Refreshments. All welcome. *7–8 p.m., Glacier Hills, 1200 Earhart Rd. Free. 769–6410.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. December 12–14. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its annual performance of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. *7 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $18 (seniors, students, & groups of 20 or more, $10 each; children 12 & under, $8) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

December 13 Holiday Events

★**Women's Chamber Chorus.** Gini Robison directs this independent local women's chorus in a program of familiar Christmas carols. *Noon, Chapel Hill Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. Free. 677–0678.*

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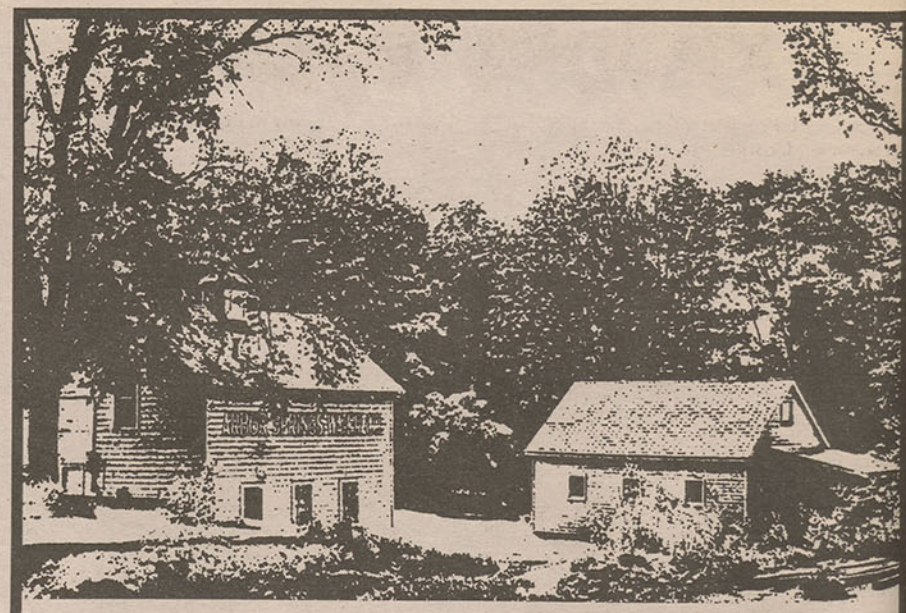

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HOLIDAY EVENTS

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**"Festive Friday Fun Night": Main Street Area Association.** December 13 & 20. Ann Arbor's downtown area is filled tonight with strolling entertainers, and many stores are open late with special sales. *7:30–9:30 p.m., downtown Main Street area. Free. 668–7112.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

December 14 Holiday Events

Annual Holiday Gift-Making Workshop: The Scrap Box. Children ages 5 and older are invited to use scrap materials and "fun junk" to make a total of five gifts in this supervised workshop. *10 a.m.–noon & 1–3 p.m., The Scrap Box, 521 State Circle (off S. State). $10 per child. Reservations required. 994–0012.*

"Annual Cookie Walk": First United Methodist Church. Stroll through a cookie bazaar and make your own selections or purchase prepacked assortments. Proceeds benefit international education and medical projects. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Free admission. 668–6829.*

"Santa Paws": Humane Society of Huron Valley. See 7 Saturday. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

"Holiday Gift Workshops": Ann Arbor Art Center. See 7 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

Holiday Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. AASPA's youth string orchestras and the Michigan Children of SCORE (Strings, Choral, Orff, Recorder Ensemble), a vocal and instrumental ensemble of area children ages 9–13, perform holiday music from around the world. *2 p.m., Michigan Theater. Donation $5 (families, $10). 995–4625.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 12 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Skate with Santa": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Santa is on hand to skate with kids of all ages and hand out holiday treats. *2:30–4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Outdoor Ice Rink, 2751 Packard Rd. (next to Cobblestone Farm). $2.50 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, $2). Skate rentals available ($1.75). 971–3228.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 24 boys in its 10th annual Christmas concert. The boy singers are supplemented by men singers, who provide the lower choral parts. The program concludes with a sing-along of traditional carols. Come early for a good seat. *3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $10 (students, $6) in advance and at the door. Family rates available. 663–5377.*

"Sing-Along with Santa and Sam": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. AASO director **Sam Wong** plays the piano and **Santa** conducts this hour-long family carol sing-along emceed by local radio personality **Lucy Ann Lance.** *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $5 (children 12 & under), $10 (adults), $25 (families of 6 or fewer), & $50 (patron families). For reservations, call 994–4801.*

"Boar's Head Festival": First Presbyterian Church. December 14 & 15. First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn conducts the church orchestra, all five of the church choirs, and vocal soloists. The program begins with the procession of the boar's head, the bringing in of the Yule log, and wassail carols, and it features secular Renaissance music and a lavishly lighted, fully staged Nativity pageant with sacred carols. *5 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. $5 (children & younger, $2) in advance Sunday mornings at the church and (if available) at the door. 662–4466.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**"A Christmas Imagination": Rudolf Steiner Institute.** Kathy Guttermore directs the Rudolf Steiner Institute's Festival Theater Group in a production of Ann Arborite Katherine Katz's adaptation of the medieval shepherd's play. Children age 5 & older welcome if accompanied by an adult. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner Institute, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free.*

"19th-Century Holiday Cotillion": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Vintage ballroom and traditional dancing to live music by David West and Donna Baird. Includes waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, and country dances. Period attire encouraged but not required. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $20 ($17 before November 30). Preregistration required. 429–0014.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 12 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

December 15 Holiday Events

"21st Annual Elmo's Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk": Elmo's Supershirts. More of a tour than a timed run. Meet at the Michigan Theater to divide into small groups, each led by a volunteer "rundeer," for a 45-minute run, jog, or walk through the U-M Diag and Arboretum. The course returns to the Michigan Theater for refreshments, singing, and door prizes. *10 a.m. (registration), 10:15 a.m. (warm-up exercises), 10:30 a.m. (run/walk), Michigan Theater. $1 donation. 994–9898.*

"Santa on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Santa in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. *1–3 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $4 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, $3.25). Skate rentals available ($1.75). 761–7240.*

★**"From Papyri to King James: The Transmission of the English Bible": U-M Special Collections Library.** Opening reception for this annual exhibit of rare and ancient Biblical manuscripts that draws visitors from around the Midwest. Today's open house includes brief talks by curators and showings of films on papyri research. *1–5 p.m., U-M Special Collections Library, 711 Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library. Free. 764–9377.*

32nd Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's famous Christmas oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semi-professionals, serious amateurs, families, church choirs, etc. A volunteer orchestra of 35–45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Orchestra players bring their own stands. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. *1 p.m. (orchestra reports), 1:15 p.m. (singers report), 1:30 p.m. (performance), St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Mary Steffek Blaske at 665–5964.*

15th Annual "Holiday Brass": Galliard Brass Ensemble. A popular annual tradition featuring this award-winning local brass quintet led by trumpeter Charles Larkins. *3:30 p.m. (doors open at 2:45 p.m.), St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $12 (adults), $8 (students & seniors), & $5 (children 12 & under), available in advance or at the door. For reservations, call 662–5146.*

★**Holiday Carillon Recital: U-M School of Music.** U-M carillonneur **Margo Halsted** plays Christmas carols and seasonal music on the U-M's massive, 4 1/2-octave, 55-bell Charles Baird Carillon. The public is welcome to join her in the bell chamber and playing room, sing along, and view the bells after the

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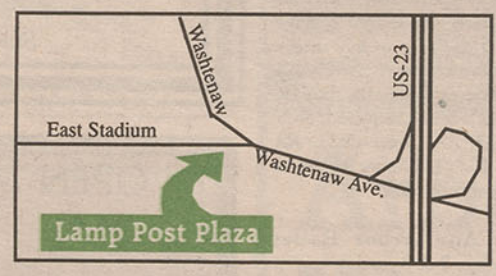

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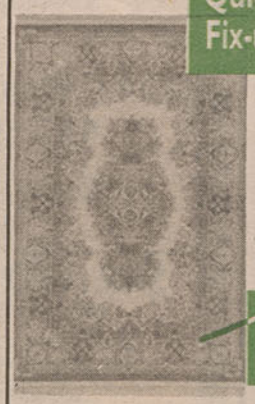

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HOLIDAY EVENTS

University Musical Society's "The Harlem Nutcracker," Dec. 18–21.

Organist Michele Johns, music director at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth, conducts the **Plymouth Bell Ringers** in a program of Christmas music for bells and organ. 12:15–12:45 p.m.

concert. *4 p.m., Burton Memorial Tower (10th floor). Elevator-accessible. Free. 764–2539.*

"Boar's Head Festival": First Presbyterian Church. See 14 Saturday. 5 p.m.

"Holiday Festival": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Maestro Sam Wong directs the AASO and the **Ann Arbor Cantata Singers** in this holiday family concert. Program includes excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" Suite and Bach's Christmas Oratorio, and an audience sing-along led by mezzo-soprano **Judy Dow Rumelhart.** *6–8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $15, $20, & $25 (discounts for seniors, students, & children) in advance at the AASO office and (today only, noon–6 p.m.) at the Michigan Theater box office. 994–4801.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★"Come to the Manger": First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. December 15–17. Church and community members present a brief reenactment of the birth of Jesus, with live animals, music, and costumes. Visitors can join a carol sing and pet the animals between performances. *6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m., First Baptist Church, 1110 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Wheelchair-accessible. Free. 482–7380.*

★37th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. All invited to join this local Christmas tradition. Congregation members read nine lessons that tell the story of God's dealings with mankind, from the fall of Adam and Eve through Old Testament prophecy and the birth of Christ. Each lesson has an associated hymn or carol, some sung by the choir and some by the congregation. *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free, but an offering is taken to benefit the St. Andrew's breakfast program and the Shelter Association of Ann Arbor. 663–0518.*

Annual Ragtime-Jazz Holiday Bash: First Unitarian Church. This popular annual tradition features piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with some boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good measure. U-M piano professor and composer **Bill Albright** hosts a lineup of top-notch local performers. *8 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $6) at the door only. 665–6158.*

December 16–17 Holiday Events

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★"Come to the Manger": First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. See 15 Sunday. 6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m.

December 18 Holiday Events

★Advent Concert Series: First Congregational Church. See 4 Wednesday. Today:

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

"The Harlem Nutcracker": Donald Byrd/ The Group (University Musical Society). December 18–21. World premiere tour of this ballet inspired by Tchaikovsky's famous Christmas ballet. Ground-breaking choreographer Donald Byrd (a Detroit native) has transformed the Russian fairy tale into a story of an African-American family in Harlem. As the performance begins, Clara is an elderly grandmother alone on Christmas Eve with memories of her beloved late husband (the Nutcracker Prince). She is joined by children and grandchildren for a festive party, but soon her memories take her back to her youth, with a sequence in a glamorous 1930s dance hall. She moves forward in time, and the ballet concludes as death approaches and Clara is reunited with her husband on Christmas Day, surrounded by a loving family. The music is Duke Ellington's jazz arrangement of Tchaikovsky's score, with additional orchestration by former Ellington Orchestra member David Berger. **Marcus Belgrave** directs a jazz orchestra and a chorus made up of local gospel choirs, among them Ann Arbor's own **Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale,** the **Voices of Bethel,** and the **Flint Community Chorale.** *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $16–$28 (Sunday family matinee: adults $20, children $10) in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

December 19 Holiday Events

★"International Day": International Neighbors. The U-M Faculty Women's Club Music Section presents a festive program of holiday instrumental and vocal music. All encouraged to bring a homemade ornament to decorate a tree to be donated to a local charity. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. *9:30–11 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church Piper Hall, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 663–6472, 995–0847.*

"Advent Noon Recital Series": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum. See 5 Thursday. Today: Susan Wilburn directs the **Sine Nomine Singers.** Noon–1 p.m.

★Counterpoint: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art. Seasonal music performed by this chorus of U-M hospital employees. *12:10 p.m., University Hospital 1st-floor lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

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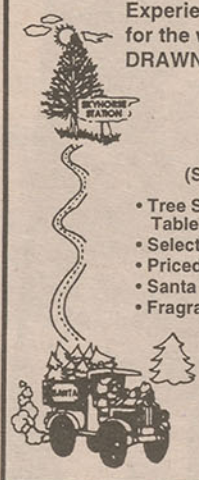

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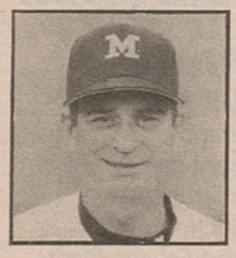

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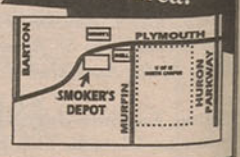

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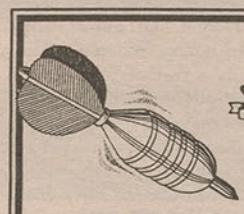

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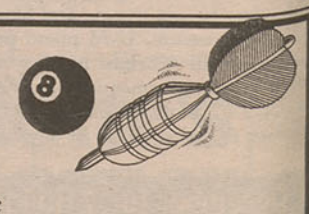

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HOLIDAY EVENTS

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

"The Harlem Nutcracker": University Musical Society. See 18 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

December 20 Holiday Events

★Solstice Firewatch: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join in a Celtic ritual awaiting the solstice. *Sunset, Botsford Recreational Preserve, 3015 Miller Rd. Free. 665–8428.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": St. Andrew's Players. December 20 & 21. Nancy Heusel directs a stage adaptation of Charles Dickens's Christmas classic. Proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity. *7 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. $5 (children & seniors, $3). 663–0518.*

"The Harlem Nutcracker": University Musical Society. See 18 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

December 21 Holiday Events

"Holiday Gift Workshops": Ann Arbor Art Center. See 7 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

★Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join a neopagan ritual celebrating the winter solstice. This year's ritual includes a special focus on children, with a gift exchange, cookie exchange, and popcorn and cranberry garland making. *2–5 p.m., Friends Meeting House, 1420 Hill St. Free (cookie exchange, $2). 665–8428.*

"The Harlem Nutcracker": University Musical Society. See 18 Wednesday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": St. Andrew's Players. See 20 Friday. 3 p.m.

"A Prairie Home Companion": Michigan Radio. Live broadcast of this beloved radio variety show hosted by writer, raconteur, and sometime singer **Garrison Keillor.** The show, which will no doubt include a holiday update from Lake Wobegon, features PHC regulars **Tom Keith** ("the sound-effects man"), the **Guys' All-Star Shoe Band,** and celebrity-voice imitator **Tim Russell,** as well as local talent to be announced. Patron tickets ($125) include preferential seating and admission to a post-show reception with Keillor. *Note:* Tickets to this show are being offered first to Michigan Radio members; any remaining tickets are expected to be sold out well in advance. *5:40 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $23–$125 in advance by calling 764–3434. $5 discount for those purchasing tickets to both tonight's event and the "Jazz Revisited" concert on Dec. 31.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

December 22 Holiday Events

★"Cum Nuovo Cantico": First Presbyterian Church Festival Sunday. First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn conducts the church's Chancel Choir in this cantata built on carols by the contemporary American composer (and U-M grad) Gerald Near. *9:30 & 11 a.m. worship services, First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

December 23 Holiday Events

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

December 24 Holiday Events

★Christmas Eve Concerts: Zion Lutheran Church. The church offers several special musical programs today featuring choirs, handbells, and a flute choir. Includes children's choirs (3 p.m.), youth and high school choirs (5 p.m.), and adult choirs (11 p.m.). Also, a string trio performs prior to the 11 p.m. service (about 10:30 p.m.). *3, 5, & 11 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Freewill offering. 994–4455.*

★"Lessons and Carols": First Presbyterian Church. The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's choirs. *5:30 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★Family Candlelight Service: Northside Community Church. Harold Haugh narrates and Martin Katz provides piano accompaniment for this retelling of the Christmas story, as children place figures into a Nativity scene. Includes scripture readings, carol singing, and a congregational singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight. *6 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton. Free. 663–0677.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★27th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church. A candlelight service of readings and carols sung by the church choir and congregation, based on the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.*

December 25–30 Holiday Events

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

December 31 Holiday Events

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

5th Annual "New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. An alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration featuring numerous local entertainment acts in and around Ypsilanti's Riverside Park, where the Festival of Lights (see 1 Sunday) concludes at midnight tonight. Kids' entertainers include comedian and mime O. J. Anderson, the male vocal quartet Three Men and a Tenor, folksinger Sheila Ritter, the JJ Magic Club, the Go Tell puppets, Wild Swan Theater, storyteller LaRon Williams, and gymnastics by

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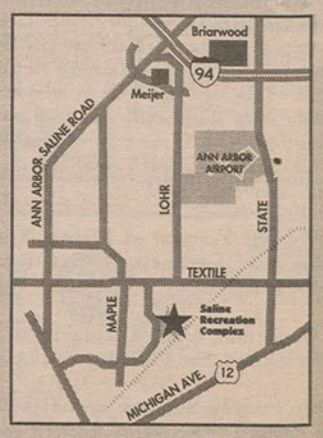

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HOLIDAY EVENTS

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Contrapreneurs' New Year's Eve Dance. Contra, swing, and couple dancing to live music by the Contrapreneurs. Callers are Don Theyken and Peter Baker. Beginners welcome; all dances taught. No partner necessary. *8 p.m.–late, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $15. Space limited; reservations required. 662–3715, (810) 698–9527.*

5th Annual New Year's Eve "Jazz Revisited" Concert: Michigan Radio. WUOM radio personality **Hazen Schumacher** and the nationally acclaimed **James Dapogny Chicago Jazz Band** led by U-M piano professor Dapogny once again host a swinging evening of jazz and blues to welcome in the New Year. Special guests this year include **Butch Thompson,** former house pianist for the "Prairie Home Companion" radio show and singer-actress **Topsy Chapman.** *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $23 ($5 discount for those also purchasing tickets for the Dec. 21 "A Prairie Home Companion" broadcast) in advance by calling 764–3434.*

"New Year's Eve Open Dance": Parents Without Partners. All divorced, widowed, separated, and never-married parents are welcome at this dance and social occasion. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. Tickets $20 in advance, $15 at the door. 973–1933, 994–7855.*

Big Dave and the Ultrasonics: Rick's American Cafe. High-powered, brightly polished blues and blues-rock by this popular local band led by vocalist and guitarist Dave Steele. *10 p.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church St. $8 (couples, $15) at the door only. 996–2747.*

Frank Allison & the Odd Sox: The Blind Pig. Scruffy, smart-mouthed utopian playground rock 'n' roll by this extremely popular local band led by singer-songwriter (and funny-face maker) Allison. *10 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $8 at the door only. 996–8555.*

THE YPSILANTI NEW YEAR JUBILEE

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The Paul Vornhagen Quartet plays St. Luke's Episcopal Church on New Year's Eve 1995.

People seek out all kinds of ways to capture a sense of tradition around the holidays. Few succeed as well as Ypsilanti's New Year's Eve celebration—even though it's a mere five years old. A nonalcoholic, family alternative to the usual New Year's blowout, the Jubilee is a church-basement affair where you can meet your neighbors, take the kids to see a magician, and then walk a few blocks through the snow for hot chocolate. It's a rare moment in which people come together in the streets and in public buildings to renew themselves.

Ypsilanti's underappreciated historic district provides the perfect setting. Half a dozen great nineteenth-century churches throw open their doors and spacious basements for the night, joined by the old Freight House in Depot Town and the Riverside Arts Center. A badge (purchased in advance at Busch's Valu Land or at any venue on Jubilee night) gets you into whichever events you choose. The buildings are scattered over a fairly wide area, so you'll get a good dose of winter air walking from one to another.

The music ranges from rock to folk to country to jazz to vocal quartet to classical to big band to reggae to Christian to boogie-woogie blues. (See p. 95 for this year's lineup.) For the rollicking countdown at midnight, the Freight House is transformed into a rock 'n' roll dance hall (this year under the spell of George Bedard and the Kingpins). But much of the other music is calmer, and attendance is actually higher earlier in the evening.

There's something for everyone, from a contra dance to a formal dinner at the James Breakey Manor if that's more to your taste. For young people the selection is especially varied, including a magician, a storyteller, gymnastics, a mime, a puppet show, and a theater troupe. Last year it struck me that I'd rarely seen so many kids having such a good time at an event their parents approved of.

The New Year Jubilee draws many refugees from the champagne imperative. Families with kids are attracted by the great selection of children's entertainment. But the biggest draw of all is the feeling of community celebration—a welcome find in this atomistic time.

—James M. Manheim

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HOLIDAY THEN & NOW

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN ANN ARBOR

Remembering the holiday season in 1920

It is 1920 and Christmas is coming. Ann Arbor is covered with snow. At night, many of the houses in my neighborhood are dark—the better to see the yellow flames in their windows. The candles, along with green wreaths, are the houses' only decorations. We children admire the old, flat-roofed Hall house on the corner of Washtenaw and Hill. From every black window, downstairs and up, shines that little beam of light.

The fraternity and sorority houses on Washtenaw are dark, too, abandoned by their student occupants for the holidays. But often, in the evening, one of the houses will light up. Invitations have been issued for a dance, and Chevrolets, Studebakers, and Model T Fords pull up to the front door of the Phi Kappa Psi house, or the Sorosis house, or the awesome Dekes on Geddes Avenue. Several sets of parents, the hosts, arrive first to greet the sons and daughters of their friends. Soon the three-piece orchestra is tuning up, and the boys are approaching the girls in their taffeta dresses to ask them for a dance.

Though I'm just a little girl, I, too, have a program with a tiny pencil attached with a silk cord. It's soon busy scribbling in names: #3, George; #7, a waltz, Charles. When a number isn't filled in, there is nothing to do but sit with the parents, stoically, always smiling, in the line of chairs against the wall.

The next day, the disgrace—or triumph—is forgotten. There is shopping to do. We girls walk in clusters to State Street: to Wahr's bookstore, for a book for our brothers, or to Van Boven's for our father's tie, and—always—to Foster's House of Art. Mr. and Mrs. Foster greet us by name and help us pick out the ivory ruler or the notepaper. "Nothing over a dollar, please, Mr. Foster." At lunchtime, transactions completed, we sit around a table in the tearoom, two steps up on the mezzanine. From here we can see everything going on in the store (old Mr. Foster wrapping Mrs. Yost's gifts) while tucking into Sophie the cook's famous chocolate cake with chocolate icing.

Or, with our mothers, we catch the streetcar on the corner of Lincoln and Cambridge. We ride to Main Street to see what they have at Goodyear's, or at Mack's, the department store that takes up three whole floors at the corner of Liberty.

When we're not shopping, we pull on our warm underwear, leggings, and wool coats, grab our sleds or our skis (with the leather straps that keep our feet from sliding out), and trudge up to Zimmerman Hill, between Vinewood and Cambridge on Washtenaw. We start at the top of the hill, right in the front yard of the big brick house where Fran and David Zimmerman live. (Madam Zimmerman, their grandmother, lives in the big brick house next door.) From here we can slide all the way to Washtenaw and, if there's enough snow covering the dirt road, clear across to the Quarry's house on the other side.

Another thing that's really keen about Christmas is the caroling. We stand outside the Adams's house on Washtenaw, or my uncle Jim's, a few houses from my family's house on Baldwin, and sing "Silent Night" and "We Three Kings," jumping up and down to keep warm. The Adamses and the Inglises ask us in, and we drink warm cider and eat Christmas cookies. That's about the best part of all.

—Carol Inglis Spicer

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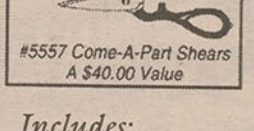
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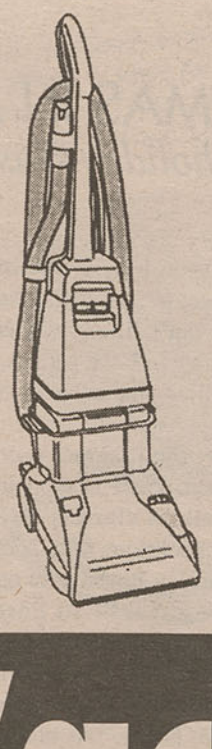

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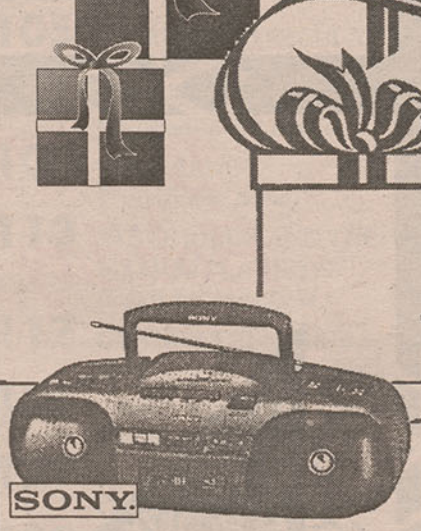

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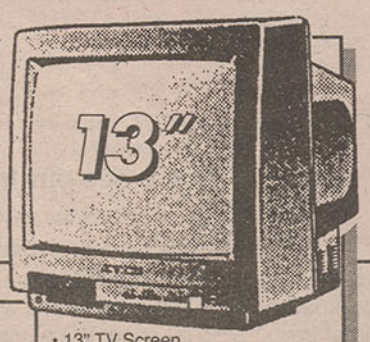

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DECEMBER EVENTS

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Who to write to:
Mail press releases to John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. (There is an after-hours drop box at the front door.) **NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE, but faxes are welcome.** Fax numbers are: **769–2147 or 769–3375.**

What gets in?

With few exceptions, events must be within Ann Arbor. Always include the address and telephone of a contact person. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (usually the 2nd Friday of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by Tuesday, December 10, will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in.

FILM SOCIETIES on and off campus

Basic info:
Tickets $4 unless otherwise noted.

Abbreviations for film societies:
CH—Canterbury House 665–0606. **CCS**—U-M Center for Chinese Studies 764–6308. **CG**—Cinema Guild 994–0027. **CJS**—U-M Center for Japanese Studies 764–6307. **Chelsea**—Chelsea Film Society. $4.50 (children 12 & under and seniors 65 & over, $1.50). 475–4596, 475–2955. **FV**—Program in Film & Video Studies 764–0147. **GH**—German House 764–2152. **HILL**—Hill Street Cinema 769–0500. **IWW**—Industrial Workers of the World. **M-FLICKS**—University Activities Center 763–1107. **MTF**—Michigan Theater Foundation—$6.50 (children, students, & seniors, $5; MTF members, $4.50). 668–8480.

Abbreviations for locations:
AADL—Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. **AH-A**—Angell Hall Auditorium A. **Canterbury**—Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. **Chelsea**—Chelsea Depot, Jackson at Main St., Chelsea. **Chrysler**—Chrysler Center Auditorium, 2121 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. **EQ**—Room 126 East Quad, East University at Hill. **German House**—603 Oxford at Geddes Ave. **Hillel**—Green Auditorium, Hillel Foundation, 1429 Hill St. **IWW**—International Workers of the World headquarters, 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. **Lorch**—Lorch Hall (Old Architecture Building), Tappan at Monroe. **Mich.**—Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty. **MLB**—Modern Languages Building, E. Washington at Thayer. **Nat. Sci.**—Natural Science Building, 830 North University at Thayer.

1 SUNDAY

★Adult Study Group: Unity Church of Ann Arbor. Every Sunday. All invited to join an informal discussion of Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla's *The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery. 8:45 a.m., Unity Church of Ann Arbor, 4599 Carpenter Rd. (just south of the I-94 overpass). Free. 434–8545.*

★"Sunday Bank Run": Ann Arbor Track Club. Every Sunday. All invited to join AATC members for all or part of a 14-mile training run along roads ringing the city. *9 a.m. Meet at the Great Lakes Bancorp parking lot, 2400 S. Huron Pkwy. at Platt Rd. Free. For information, call Dan Gamble at 995–5505.*

★Weekly Practice: Shorinji Kempo. Every Sunday. All invited to try this Japanese self-defense system, which combines hard and soft techniques with Zen philosophy. Club members also meet weekly for noncompetitive practice. *9–11 a.m., Dance Gallery Studio, 111 Third St. at W. Huron. Free to visitors ($25 monthly dues). 998–0940.*

★Zen Meditation: Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. Every Sunday. Meditators from all traditions are welcome to join in meditation to develop awareness and concentration. In the morning, two 25-minute meditation periods with a break between, followed by a short talk by Zen Buddhist Temple resident priest Sukha Murray. In the evening, meditation and chanting, followed by a talk and a question period. *9:30–11 a.m. & 5–6:30 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free; donations accepted. 761–6520.*

CALENDAR

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125 GALLERY REVIEW
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164 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Koko Taylor and Her Blues Machine, Dec. 7.

"A Prairie Home Companion" live broadcast, Dec. 21.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. Every Sunday through December 22. A wide variety of fine arts and crafts by local artisans. Also, some plants and produce for sale. Musicians, storytellers, or other entertainers are usually on hand to add to the festivities. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Farmers' Market (Kerrytown). Free admission. Artists interested in exhibiting should call Marilyn Mattingly at (313) 453–2606.*

★"Selections from Great Diaries: Part II": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship. Talk by U-M humanities professor emeritus Ralph Loomis. *10 a.m., Burns Park Community Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971–8638.*

"Botanical Enchantment": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Daily (except December 25) through December 31. All invited to explore the MBG's 15,000-square-foot conservatory, with more than 1,000 species of exotic flora from around the world. A special 9-foot-high poinsettia tree is on display through the holidays. Also, browse the MBG gift shop for floral and gardening gift ideas. *10 a.m.–6 p.m. daily, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Conservatory admission $2 (children K–12, $1). 998–7061.*

★First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. Every Sunday. A weekly program for single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today's topic to be announced. Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at The Broken Egg (N. Main at Miller; formerly the Old Fashioned Soup Kitchen) or 10:30 a.m. at Cafe Marie (1759 Plymouth Rd.), and every Wednesday at 7 p.m. for volleyball. All singles invited. *10:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 434–8545.*

★Chinese Meditation: Ann Arbor Chapter of the International Yan Xin Qigong Association. Every Sunday. All invited to discuss and practice this Chinese form of meditation. *10:30 a.m.–noon, 1014 Herbert Dow Bldg., 2300 Hayward, North Campus. Free. 764–2182.*

★"Plymouth Plantation Worship Service": Northside Community Church. The church observes the 375th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving at its morning service today. Church leaders wear Pilgrim costumes and the sermon is based on a text of the period. Also, prior to the service, colonial historian Jason Barrett discusses **"Power, Money, and God in Plymouth Plantation"** (9:45 a.m.). *11 a.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton. Free. 663–0677.*

★Sunday Discussion: Knox Singles Ministries. Every Sunday. All single adults invited to join a discussion of contemporary Christian topics to be announced. *11 a.m., Tappan Middle School, 2251 E. Stadium. Free. 971–KNOX.*

Country Craft Show: Homespun Creations. Crafters from throughout the Midwest and Pennsylvania offer basketry, jewelry, tole painting, folk art dolls, quilting, pottery, holiday items, stained glass, flowers, clothing, wood toys, silk and dried flowers, candles, needlework, and more. Includes a country market featuring Michigan products and holiday greens and wreaths. Food concessions. Santa is on hand to pose for photos and hand out small gifts to kids (noon–2 p.m.). *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $2 admission. Wheelchair-accessible; no strollers. 429–5922.*

"Pictures with a Pony": Powers Portraits. A chance for children to be photographed with a live pony. Too cute for words. *Noon–5 p.m., Arborland Mall. $5. 971–1825.*

"Wodabe Art of Niger": ArtVentures Studio (Ann Arbor Art Center). Daily (except Mondays). Children and parents are invited to make art projects associated with the Wodabe tribe, including feathered turbans, lookategi belts, folded headcloths, and decorated calabashes. *Noon–5 p.m. (Sun.), 1–5 p.m. (Tues.–Thurs.), 1–9 p.m. (Fri.), & 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.), Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Admission $4 per hour (for a maximum of 2 hours). Children*

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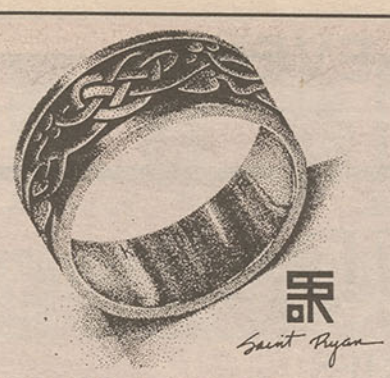

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ART & CRAFT SHOW
NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 1

Saturday - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds
5055 Ann Arbor - Saline Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI
Admission $2.00
No Strollers Please

Heavy Metal.
Ancient Greek and Roman Bronzes
View gods and goddesses brought to life from ancient foundries. Stroll among large scale heroes cast in millenniums-old metal. And discover the sophisticated technology, very much like today's mass production, that yielded the thousands of breathtaking figures adorning the classical world. Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to enjoy the first exhibition of its kind, at one of the country's finest museums.
For tickets call (419) 243-7000.
The Fire of Hephaistos
Large Classical Bronzes from North American Collections
October 13 - January 5
The Toledo Museum of Art.
It's what you make it.

EVENTS *continued*

under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. Adults assisting a child admitted free. Free admission December 8. 994–8004.

★**"First Sunday Hot Sauce Tasting": Tios Restaurant.** Tios manager Tim Seaver offers samples of the hundreds of hot sauces and salsas available at this popular Mexican diner. Work your way through 100 sauces and you'll get a free T-shirt. *Noon–4 p.m., Tios Restaurant, 333 E. Huron. Free. 761–6650.*

★**Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program.** Every Sunday. All seniors age 55 and older invited for an afternoon of socializing. Activities include a potluck (1–1:30 p.m.) and bridge and euchre (1:30–3:30 p.m.). Participants are welcome to bring their own games. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Newcomers welcome. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio.** Every Sunday. All seniors age 50 & older are invited to join Kiki David, a 92-year-old runner (and Herb David's mother), for an hour-long walk in Gallup Park. Weather permitting. *1 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. For information, call Herb David at 665–8001 (10 a.m.–6 p.m. except Sundays).*

★**"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Saturday & Sunday. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *Note*: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. *1 p.m. Meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994–0044.*

"Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Ann Arbor Parks Department. December 1 & 8. Re-creation of a 19th-century Christmas, with traditional decorations, Christmas caroling, musical entertainment, craft activities for kids, and freshly baked holiday treats. Tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse are available. *1–5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $2. (families, $8; children under 3, free). 994–2928.*

★**Bruce Lansky: Charlotte's Corner.** This best-selling children's author visits the store for an afternoon of reading, storytelling, or games tailored to the audience. Lansky's recent books include *Girls to the Rescue #2*, a second collection of folk and fairy tales featuring girl heroines. *1 p.m., Charlotte's Corner, Lamp Post Plaza, 2394 E. Stadium. Free. 973–9512.*

★**"Upstairs at Borders": Borders Books and Music.** December 1, 8, & 15. Weekly musical series featuring area performers. Today: Irish-flavored holiday tunes by **Mulligan Stew.** *1 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

Gemini: The Ark. Children's concert by this popular acoustic duo that has built a strong following among kids and adults throughout the Great Lakes area. Twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovitz offer sing-alongs, songs from around the world, and upbeat originals about life's simple pleasures, all performed with a boisterous sense of fun on more than a dozen instruments. Today's program includes both new songs and old favorites. The shows are preceded at 12:30 & 2:30 p.m. by an "instrumental petting zoo," featuring instruments provided by Oz's Music. A portion of the proceeds go to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at U-M Mott Children's Hospital. *1 & 3 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $6 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**22nd Annual Kiwanis Christmas Sing: Western Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor.** More than 500 usually attend this family-oriented event. Kiwanis members Jeff Crause and Charlie Phibbs lead the audience in a sing-along of favorite Christmas carols. Jim Leaffe accompanies on the Barton Theater organ. Also, a visit from Santa and guest performances by Three Men and a Tenor, a popular area male vocal quartet, and U-M law professor Bev Pooley, who reads *The Night Before Christmas*. Emcee is Kool 107 radio personality Lucy Ann Lance. All invited to come early at noon and help the Michigan Theater decorate its Christmas tree. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668–8397.*

★**"Feed the Poets": Del Rio.** Open-mike poetry readings interspersed with informal readings by local poets to be announced. *1:30–4:30 p.m., Del Rio, 122 W. Washington. Free. 761–2530.*

"Tle'ehoonaa'ei: The One Who Governs the Night"/"The Four Seasons": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. December 1, 7, & 8. "Tle'ehoonaa'ei" is an audiovisual exploration of the sky mythologies of various North American native cultures, with an emphasis on stars currently visible in the sky. "The Four Seasons" is an audiovisual show about the sun's annual journey along the ecliptic and how its changing position influences the seasons. *1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("Tle'ehoonaa'ei"); 3:30 p.m. ("The Four Seasons"); U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. $3 (seniors & children 12 & under, $2). "The Four Seasons" is not recommended for kids age 6 & under. 764–0478.*

★**Warhammer Fantasy Battle Demonstration: The Underworld.** Every Sunday. All invited to learn how to play this tactical miniatures board game. *1:30 p.m., The Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★**"Kerry Tales: Time for Toys and Mother Goose": Story Time at Kerrytown (Kerrytown Shops/Workbench Furniture).** This 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun features local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Workbench, 2nd-floor children's furniture area, Kerrytown. Free. 769–3115.*

★**"A Young Adult's Guide to the Art of Medicine": Waldenbooks.** Local physician Raymond Bernreuter signs copies of his guide to the medical care system for teens. (Also, he signs books at the Medicine Shoppe in Saline, December 7, 2–4 p.m.). *2–4 p.m., Waldenbooks, Briarwood Mall. Free. 995–3817.*

★**"Ann Arbor: Visions of the Eagle": Little Professor Book Company.** Local photographer Dale Fisher discusses and autographs his new book of aerial photographs. *2–4 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★**Sunday Tour: U-M Museum of Art.** Every Sunday. UMMA docents lead an hour-long tour of museum holdings. Today: **"Images d'Epinal."** *(see review, p. 125). 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Rhythm Writers.** Featured readers (2:30 p.m.) are **Irv Barat,** a Windsor poet who writes compact, humorously insightful poems, and EMU history grad student **Charles Zwinak,** a 3-time Ann Arbor Poetry Slam Grand Slam champion known for his vigorous, straight-forward poems on a variety of personal topics. The program begins at 2 p.m. with a talk on **"Where Poems Come From"** by Ypsilanti poet Laurence Thomas and concludes at 3:30 p.m. with an open mike for poets and prose writers. Refreshments. *2 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free; donations accepted. (810) 652–8568.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. Every Wednesday through Sunday through December 21. World premiere of this new comedy by Purple Rose cofounder Jeff Daniels, the stage and screen actor who is a Chelsea native and resident. Guy Sanville directs this tale of a public TV fund-raiser starting a new life in a new apartment after being dumped by her boyfriend. While she tries to sort out her feelings, she is preoccupied by the attentions of two very different men, the budget woes of public broadcasting, and the problem of evil in general. Cast includes Suzi Regan, Joseph Albright, Randall Godwin, and Leo McNamara. *2 & 7 p.m., Garage Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. $15 (Wed., Thurs., & Sun.) and $20 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 475–7902.*

★**Ann Arbor-Motown Hash House Harriers.** December 1, 8, 15, 19, 22, & 28. The local chapter of an unorthodox international running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's primary task is to follow a trail, laid out by a club member, that has been designed to trick runners into losing their way. The usual result is to make the fastest (lead) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer and soft drinks, hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby

Sacred and secular light shows

The Festival of Lights and the Christmas Light Display

PETER MATTHEWS

If it's Christmas, it's time to string the colored lights. If you don't care to turn your own house into an advertisement for Detroit Edison, you can always check out one of two nightly displays in Washtenaw County that run from Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve. Between them, they offer something for everyone, whether your taste runs to the secular or the sacred. Tip for adult visitors: triple your pleasure and take a kid along.

First, there's the Ypsilanti Festival of Lights in Riverside Park. This city display, now in its eleventh year, is cheery and doggedly secular. There are plenty of Santas and reindeer and other tokens of the season all outlined in lights. Small children will get a kick out of the large snowman and toy soldier figures with their movable arms. Colored lights are looped with cheerful haphazardness like strings of popcorn through the tree branches. It's especially pretty just after a snowfall.

You can either drive or walk through the park (on foot, you can get close enough to the light fixtures to count the burned-out bulbs) or go down to the river's edge and see the lights reflected on the dark water. Horse-drawn wagon rides are offered on Saturdays. There's no admission fee, but donations are welcome.

Then there's the Christmas Light Display at Domino's Farms, a small-scale Tivoli Gardens that features a drive-through arcade of angels and trees wrapped from top to bottom in hundreds of tiny blue, green, and pink lights that glitter like sequins. Originally started by Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan, a devout Catholic (it's now under the auspices of the nonprofit Christmas Celebration Inc.), the event is forthrightly religious in tone. It offers Nativity scenes, illuminated crosses, depictions of the Three Wise Men, and a "Kneeling Santa," showing Kris Kringle on his knees before the Baby Jesus. Tune your car radio to 530 AM and listen to Christmas carols while driving through the display.

It's a far busier and more commercial enterprise than Ypsilanti's, with a menu of sights and activities that expands every year. The $5 per car admission fee ($7 on weekends) also includes indoor attractions: live musical entertainment, creche displays, a hallway lined with decorated artificial Christmas trees, animated mechanical reindeer, snowmen, and the like, and the chance to shell out more money in the cafeteria and gift shop.

The hodgepodge of attractions is sometimes confusing. Last year's laser-beam display ("bright enough to see in Detroit or Howell on a clear night") seemed to have no rationale other than to show off the technology. And I was frankly alarmed by a huge set of four-foot letters proclaiming "THE LORD HAS COME" in eerie green and blue lights. The indoor events included a display of drawings by schoolchildren. While they obviously had been instructed to incorporate the Domino's Pizza logo into their artworks, it was disconcerting to see a red-and-blue pizza box hovering over Mary's head in the manger scene.

The Christmas Light Display has its moments. For me, the highlight came when we drove around a corner and came upon a darkened hillside where cattle, sheep, and even a bison were quietly grazing. Away from the garish lights, they could almost have been the beasts of Bethlehem, and I was moved in spite of myself.

—Jennifer Dix

restaurant for refreshments. *3 p.m., location to be announced. Free. For location and information, call Ingrid Verhamme at (313) 885–8490.*

"Circles, Lines, and Squares": Swing City Dance Studio. Veteran folk dance instructor Wendy Holden leads this beginners' workshop on dances of the British Isles. Open to adults and children ages 7 and up who have some dance experience. Wear comfortable clothing and ballet slippers or dance shoes. *3–5 p.m., Swing City Dance Studio, Colonial Lanes Plaza, 1960 S. Industrial. $6 (family discounts available). Reservations requested. 668–7782, 996–4547.*

★**Arianna String Quartet: EMU Music Department.** The 1994 grand prize winner at the prestigious Fischoff Chamber Music Competition, the Arianna is regarded as one of the country's finest young string quartets. This is the second of four concerts this year at EMU as part of Arianna's stint as quartet-in-residence. Program: Beethoven's Opus 18 No. 3, Britten's Quartet No. 3, and Janacek's No. 1. *4 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Morris Dancing: Ann Arbor Morris & Sword Dancers.** Every Sunday. All invited to learn this traditional form of English ceremonial dance dating back to medieval times. No experience necessary. Wear comfortable soft-soled shoes. *6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. Free. For information, call Peggy at 663–9218.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** Nightly through December 31. *See review above.* Ypsilanti's Riverside Park is transformed into a wintry fantasia by more than 50,000 lights on trees and in illuminated displays. Every year, more than 150,000 visitors walk or drive through the park. Also, horse-drawn wagon rides on Saturdays. *6–10 p.m., Riverside Park, off Cross St., Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Free. 483–4444.*

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. Nightly through December 31. *See review above.* Some 900,000 lights are used to decorate the trees and grounds of Domino's Farms in this annual holiday show. New this year: digital images of the Christmas story are projected on a huge 20-by-40-foot screen, and eight miniature houses line the entrance drive. Weather permitting, a fleet of **hot air balloons** will light up the sky on December 6 (6–7 p.m.). Other attractions include an indoor **Celebration of Trees** featuring dozens of decorated Christmas trees, a **creche display** of more than 200 nativity scenes from around the world collected by Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan, and a **Living Nativity** (Friday & Saturday nights only) complete with live animals. Refreshments, a gift shop, and live entertainment are offered inside the Domino's buildings. Also, anyone with Web access can send an electronic post card with pictures of the display (Web site: http://christmas.branch.com/). Proceeds benefit area charities. *Nightly 6–10 p.m., Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Admission $5 per vehicle (Mon.–Thurs.), $7 per vehicle (Fri.–Sun.). Buses: $50. 668–1800.*

★**Christmas Concert: Our Own Thing Chorale.** U-M music school dean Willis Patterson directs this local chorus in a program of seasonal music, with an emphasis on carols composed and/or arranged by African-Americans. Also, the choir performs this month under the direction of Marcus Belgrave in "The Harlem Nutcracker" (see 18 Wednesday). *6:30 p.m., Bethel A.M.E. Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free. 677–4407.*

★**E 17.** This local ensemble specializes in the performance of early 17th-century Italian music on period instruments. Performers are soprano **Lorna Young Hildebrandt,** cornetist **Kiri Tollaksen,** theorboist **Gregory Hamilton,** and organist **Mark Janello.** Tonight they perform works of Monteverdi, Merula, Uccellini, and

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DECEMBER
4 INVASION OF IMPROV
Ticket price: $6
5 EDDIE CLARK
6 He's an ex-cop from New York City who takes no prisoners with his unique style of comedy and his slanted observations on life in the city.
7 Tickets $10
(All discounts accepted excluding early show Sat.)
11 INVASION OF IMPROV
Ticket price: $6
12 FRANK VIGNOLA
13 Frank has never been accused of being P.C. His sneering, cynical style of comedy grabs your funny bone and breaks it. From the stages of "Stand Up Stand Up" and "Short Attention
14 Span Theater," it's Frank Vignola!
Tickets $10
(All discounts accepted excluding early show Sat.)
18 INVASION OF IMPROV
Ticket price: $6
19 JOHN HEFFRON
20 This Mainstreet prodigy is in town for the holiday season, and we are glad to have him back. From Q 95.5 FM's "Q Crew" in the morning with Danny
21 Bonaduce we present this Gen-X jokester.
Tickets $10
(All discounts accepted excluding early show Sat.)
26 BLAIR SHANNON
27 Blair's talent as both an outstanding stand-up comedian, and musical stylist, has won him
28 appearances on HBO, "Evening at the Improv," and Caroline's Comedy Hour. It's not unusual
29 for the golden voices of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., or Louie Armstrong to belt out some old time favorite tunes at any time.
Tickets $12
(All discounts accepted excluding Friday 12/27 & Sat. 12/28)
New Year's Eve
BLAIR SHANNON

Laugh in the New Year with our all time Mainstreet favorite. See above description.
Showtimes & Ticket prices for New Year's Eve
8:00pm show - $22.50
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10:30 pm show ticket price includes party favors and a split of champagne at midnight to toast in the New Year!
1/2 OFF WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY
This coupon valid for 1/2 off one general admission Wed. or Thurs. Expires December 26, 1996
General admission seating availability only. Excludes select shows and Special Engagements. Call 996-9080 for more information.
2 FOR 1 FRIDAY
This coupon valid for one free general admission with one paid general admission Friday. Expires December 20, 1996
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$3 OFF SATURDAY 10:30PM SHOW
This coupon valid for $3 off one general admission late show Saturday Expires December 21, 1996
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BOBBY MCFERRIN PRESENTS CLASSIC INNOVATIONS
9:30 p.m., Monday, December 2

GREAT PERFORMANCES
MUSICALS GREAT MUSICALS: THE ARTHUR FREED UNIT AT MGM
9 p.m., Tuesday, December 3

GEORGE WINSTON
SEASONS IN CONCERT
9:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 4

THE NEW REFORMATION DIXIELAND BAND
IN CONCERT
10 p.m., Friday, December 6

BRASS THEATER WITH THE CANADIAN BRASS & STAR OF INDIANA
9:15 p.m., Monday, December 9

RIVERDANCE
A FEAST OF IRISH MUSIC AND DANCE
8 p.m., Tuesday, December 10

A CARNEGIE HALL CHRISTMAS
9 p.m., Wednesday, December 11

Sunday, December 15

ANDRE RIEU
A TRIBUTE TO STRAUSS
at 5 p.m.

THE THREE SOPRANOS
at 6:30 p.m.

CARRERAS, DOMINGO, PAVAROTTI WITH LEVINE
THE THREE TENORS IN CONCERT 1996
at 8:30 p.m.

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December 2-15

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EVENTS *continued*

Strozzi. *7 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Blanche Anderson Moore Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 662–9168.*

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. Every Sunday. Dancing to late-30s swing and 40s R&B by this veteran local big band led by Urbations saxophonist David Swain. *7–9:30 p.m., Heidelberg Restaurant (3rd floor), 215 N. Main. $3. 663–7758.*

"House Blend" Series: Ann Arbor Playwrights. December 1 & 15. All invited to hear a reading of short plays by Carol Shepherd (see "The Playwrights," p. 45), Ross Dahlberg, and Kevin Knauss. The audience is invited to discuss the plays after the reading. *7 p.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. $2 suggested donation. 913–9749.*

"An Evening of Ballroom Splendor": U-M Ballroom Dance Club. Ballroom dancing to recorded music played by DJ Dorian Deaver. All couples and singles invited. *7:30–11 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $10 (members, $5). 213–2208.*

FILMS

MTF. "Wallace and Gromit: The Best of Aardman Animation" (1989–1996). The Oscar-winning "A Close Shave" and other shorts. Mich., 3:15 p.m. **"Microcosmos"** (Claude Nurisdany & Marie Perennou, 1996). December 1–5 & 8. Visually stunning, often witty documentary on the life of insects. Mich., 6:15 p.m. **"Lone Star"** (John Sayles, 1996). December 1 & 2. A sheriff following in his father's footsteps in a small Texas border town begins to unravel a decades-old mystery. Chris Cooper. Mich., 8 p.m.

2 MONDAY

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. Every Monday. Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. with an educational or cultural program. This month (through December 16): a class on **"Russian Culture"** presented by U-M Flint world culture professor Inna Naroditskaya. There is no morning program on December 23 & 30. The weekly program also includes meetings of the creative writing group **Words for Ourselves, Our Children, Our Community** (12:45 p.m.). Also, at noon, a homemade dairy luncheon buffet ($4, $3 with reservations). All invited. *10 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. December 2 & 9. All invited to join this independent local women's chorus to sing a variety of music, from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. Gini Robison directs. *10–11:30 a.m., Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 520 W. Jefferson at Fourth St. Free to first-time visitors ($30 per semester membership dues). 677–0678, 663–5546.*

★Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army. Every Monday. Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 and older. Every meeting includes **Bible study** and **chair exercises,** as well as a special program, speaker, word game, or craft activity. Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch and socializing. *10:30 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free ($1 donation for lunch). 668–8353.*

Weekly Luncheon Series: M Club of Ann Arbor. December 2, 9, & 16. A lunchtime talk by U-M head football coach **Lloyd Carr,** with other speakers to be announced (usually another U-M coach and a student athlete). *11:30 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Lunch cost: $6.75 (seniors, $6.25). For more information, call Fred Model at 475–3542.*

★"Four Villages: Architecture in Nepal": U-M School of Art and Design. *Washington Post* columnist and research architect **Katherine Salant** discusses her 8-year research project examining four Nepalese villages whose housing styles differed widely, according to the communities' climate, site, and culture, and the effects of modern economic development. *6–7:30 p.m., U-M Art & Architecture Auditorium (room 2104), 2000 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. Free. 764–1300.*

Ohio poet, storyteller, and musician Ray McNeice, called "a folk troubadour descendant of Woody Guthrie," is the featured reader at the Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, Tues., Dec. 3, at Club Heidelberg.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★"Natural Healing with Nutrition and Herbs with Cindy Klement." Every Monday & Tuesday through December 17. A series of lectures by this local herbalist, iridologist, and nutritional consultant. This week: showing of the video **"Herb Walk."** *6:30–7:30 p.m., Ashley Square, Suite 12, 123 N. Ashley at Ann. Free. Reservations requested. 665–0383.*

★"A Course in Miracles." Every Monday. All invited to discuss spiritual issues raised by *A Course in Miracles,* Helen Shuchman's book of transcriptions of her channellings of new teachings of Jesus. *6:45 p.m., Unity Church of Ann Arbor, 4599 Carpenter Rd. (just south of the I-94 overpass). Free. 434–8545.*

★Evening Voyages: Ann Arbor District Library. Part of a series of storytelling programs for listeners 1st grade through adult. Stories in this popular series are told rather than read, and music is an integral part of each program. Children under age 6 not admitted. Tonight's topic: **"Spinning."** *7–7:45 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2345.*

★Weekly Meeting: Huron Valley Toastmasters. Every Monday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A good opportunity to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner in the U-M Hospital cafeteria. *Note*: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). *7–9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. Dues: $48 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $16). 663–1836.*

★Weekly Meeting: The Shire of Cynnabar (Society for Creative Anachronism). Every Monday. All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Each meeting features a workshop on re-creating a different aspect of medieval culture, including heraldry, costuming, embroidery, and other crafts. *7 p.m., 1305 Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences Bldg., 1311 Beal, North Campus. Free. For information, call Chuck Cohen at 764–4317.*

★"Buying a Home Without Losing Your Shirt": The Buyer's Agent. Real estate professionals lead a discussion on first-time home buying, including the search process, negotiation, mortgages, and closings. *7–8:30 p.m., The Buyer's Agent, 1900 W. Stadium. Free, but preregistration required. 662–6240.*

★"Liturgists' Round Table": Druids of Shining Lake Grove. December 2 & 16. All invited to join members of this local pagan group to help plan the Yule festival on December 21 (see listing). *7 p.m., Sweetwaters Cafe, 123 W. Washington at S. Ashley. Free. 729–6968.*

★**"Modeling Adaptive Complex Systems": U-M Research Club/U-M Women's Research Club.** Talk by U-M mathematics and economics professor Carl Simon. Refreshments. All invited. *7 p.m., Rackham East Conference Room. Free. 662–8067.* **Rescheduled on Dec. 9.**

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Bradley. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $12 & $15. 764–0247.*

★**"A Cello Christmas": Borders Books and Music.** Geoffrey Simon, aka "Maestro Santa," talks about this recording he conducted with 24 cellos and the Choir of Clare College at Cambridge (England). Also, the maestro gives impromptu conducting lessons and hands out candy-cane batons. *7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Smocking Group.** Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in smocking, the English art of embroidering by gathering cloth in regularly spaced round tucks, and heirloom sewing. All invited. *7:30 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 663–7867.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Music and stands provided. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School choir room, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free to first-time visitors ($30 annual dues). 665–5758.*

★**"Monday Evenings with Stephen McLean": Network Chiropractic Center.** December 2 & 16. A series of talks by this local chiropractor. This month: **"Network Chiropractic's Influence on Environmental Illness"** (tonight) and **"Transformation Through Network Chiropractic Care and the 12 Stages of Healing"** (December 16). *8 p.m., Network Chiropractic Center, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 668–6110.*

★**Writers Series: Guild House.** Reading by **Aria,** a Detroit poet known for her straightforward, powerful lyricism, and **Monica Pope,** a Monroe poet known for the Erma Bombeck-style wit with which she explores the essence of daily life. *8:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 677–6839, 662–5189.*

★**"Monday Nite OUT": U-M Lesbian Gay Bisexual Programs Office.** December 2, 9, & 16. A social outing and support group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and their friends. Discussion, snacks, games, and movies. *9–11 p.m., Lord of Light Lutheran Church, 801 S. Forest Ave. at Hill St. Free. 763–4186.*

FILMS

MTF. "Lone Star" (John Sayles, 1996). See 1 Sunday. Mich., 7 p.m. **"Microcosmos"** (Claude Nurisdany & Marie Perennou, 1996). See 1 Sunday. Mich., 9:30 p.m.

3 TUESDAY

★**"Natural Healing with Nutrition and Herbs with Cindy Klement."** See 2 Monday. This week: showing of the video **"Herb Walk."** 9:30–10:30 a.m.

★**"Occupational Health in China": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Brown Bag Lecture.** Talk by U-M occupational and environmental health professor Steven Levine, also director of the World Health Organization's Collaborating Center in Occupational Health. Bring a bag lunch; Chinese lunch (around $3) available. *Noon–1 p.m., Lane Hall Commons, 204 S. State. Free. 764–6308.*

★**"Proust Between Allegory and Symbol": U-M Institute for the Humanities Brown Bag Lecture.** Talk by U-M Romance languages professor emeritus Mercel Muller. Bring a bag lunch. *Noon, 1524 Rackham. Free. 936–3518.*

★**Ypsilanti High School Chamber Singers: Ann Arbor District Library "Downtown Sounds" Concert Series.** This outstanding Ypsilanti youth choir directed by Bill Boggs has performed to acclaim around the world and has won numerous honors, including being named "Youth Choir of the Year" at the 1994 Bournemouth Festival in England. Bring a bag lunch; coffee provided. *12:10–1 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 345 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2333.*

★**Motivational Speaker: P.O.I.S.E.** December 6 & 20 & every Tuesday. Motivational programs presented by this local nonprofit organi-

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Chanticleer

Wednesday, December 4, 8:00pm
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

This male vocal ensemble, performing repertoire ranging from Renaissance to contemporary gospel music, is the most esteemed of its kind. A program of seasonal sacred text settings in the reverberant sanctuary of St. Francis of Assisi.

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Handel's *Messiah*

UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Thomas Sheets, conductor
Janet Williams, soprano
Malin Fritz, contralto
William Watson, tenor
Kevin McMillan, baritone
Saturday, December 7, 8:00pm
Sunday, December 8, 2:00pm
Hill Auditorium

Ann Arbor's oldest and most beloved musical tradition celebrates its 118th consecutive year of performances as the UMS Choral Union presents Handel's grand oratorio, *Messiah*. Don't miss this official start to the holiday season!

Presented with the generous support of Dr. James and Millie Irwin.

"So Many Stars" Kathleen Battle and Friends

KATHLEEN BATTLE, SOPRANO
CYRUS CHESTNUT, PIANO
CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE, BASS
JAMES CARTER, SAXOPHONE
CYRO BAPTISTA, PERCUSSION
Friday, December 13, 8:00pm
Hill Auditorium

Jazz hotshots Cyrus Chestnut, James Carter, Christian McBride and Cyro Baptista join opera star Kathleen Battle for an evening of music by Duke Ellington, favorite spirituals, and a selection of lullabies and love songs from Battle's #1 hit CD, *So Many Stars*.

The Harlem Nutcracker

Donald Byrd/The Group
Choreography by Donald Byrd
Music by Piotr Ilych Tchaikovsky
Arranged by Duke Ellington and David Berger
The Harlem Nutcracker Band
Marcus Belgrave, Band Leader
The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale
Wednesday, December 18 – Saturday, December 21, 8pm
Saturday, December 21, 2pm (Family Show)
Power Center

Co-commissioned by UMS, *The Harlem Nutcracker* will visit six U.S. cities this holiday season on its world-première tour, featuring the acclaimed dance company, Donald Byrd/The Croup, an ensemble of Detroit jazz masters, young people from southeastern Michigan, and a 50-member gospel choir. With music by Duke Ellington, this interpretation of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* combines the swing of the Harlem Renaissance with contemporary dance, invoking everything from Cotton Club swing to 1990s hip-hop.

This event is generously supported by the Grayling Fund and Project Management Associates.

THIS MONTH'S FREE EDUCATIONAL EVENTS:

PREP James Borders, Associate Dean, School of Music, "Christmas Sacred Vocal Music, Medieval to Modern," Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7pm, St. Francis of Assisi.

Links to Literature
Public readings by local Senior Citizens about the Harlem Renaissance. At Borders Books and Music. Thurs., Dec. 5, 7:30pm, Public reading for adults. Sat., Dec. 7, 11am, Public reading for children. Sat., Dec. 14, 2pm, Public reading at the Ann Arbor Public Library. (In collaboration with The Links, and Borders Books and Muisc)

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zation for full-figured men and women. This month's topics to be announced. *1–2:30 p.m. (Tuesdays), Carpenter Place Activities Room, 3400 Carpenter Rd.; 7–8:30 p.m. (Fridays), Reichert Health Bldg. Arbory Lounge, 5301 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 741–1045.*

★**"Men and Their Wine: Madeira Wine Traditions in Early America": U-M "Food in Global History" Theme Semester.** Lecture by local culinary historian Daniel Longone. Post-lecture refreshments catered by the Blue Nile. *4 p.m., Rackham East Conference Room. Free. 764–6362.*

★**Charles Baxter: U-M English Department/Borders Books and Music Visiting Writers Series.** Reading by this nationally recognized fiction writer, director of the U-M's M.F.A. program in creative writing. Baxter's stories and novels are often set in Ann Arbor or fictionalized Michigan towns, and are characterized by his ability to find beauty in an otherwise drab landscape, compassion for his all-too-human characters, and his search for a way to act in a morally uncertain world. The *New York Times*'s Michiko Kakutani credits Baxter with a "gentle but persuasive knack for finding and describing the fleeting moments that indelibly define a life." *4 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 764–6296.*

★**"Ottoman Court Records Regarding Women": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies Annual Women in the Middle East Lecture.** Talk by Cornell University Near Eastern Studies professor Leslie Peirce. *4 p.m., Rackham West Conference Room (4th floor). Free. 764–0350.*

★**Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** December 3, 4, 10, & 11. Stories, songs, and finger plays for preschoolers age 3 and up. An adult must be present in the library but need not attend. This week's topic: **"Snow/Winter."** *4–4:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2345.*

Monthly Meeting: Catholic Alumni Group. Single Catholics free to marry in the church are invited to join for dinner and socializing, with brief announcements of upcoming events. *6 p.m., location to be announced. Pay for your own dinner. Reservations requested. Call Bob at 662–3555 or 994–6600.*

★**"String Figure Fun": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local string figure artist Marcia Gaynor shows how to make a cat's cradle and other string figures. For kids age 8 & older. *6–7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library youth department (1st floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–2345.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**"A Stronger Soul Within a Finer Frame: Portraying African-Americans in the Black Renaissance": Ann Arbor District Library.** Opening reception for this national traveling exhibit, which features rare first-edition books, posters, and art works from the University of Minnesota's collection representing the "Harlem Renaissance" period of the 1920s and 30s. Includes a performance by a local gospel choir. Refreshments. In conjunction with the upcoming performance of "The Harlem Nutcracker" (see 18 Wednesday). Other related events this month include poetry and prose readings (December 5, 7, & 14), a discussion of James Weldon Johnson's *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* (December 11), and a documentary film showing (December 17). *7–9 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 345 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2333.*

★**"Reflections of Faith VI": Concordia College.** Opening reception for this juried exhibit of religious art by various artists working in different media. *7–9 p.m., Concordia College Kreft Center for the Arts, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Free. 995–7300.*

★**Biweekly Meeting: Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.** December 3 & 17. All invited to learn about the ski club's various excursions and social events. Tonight: discussion of proper ski clothing. *7 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 662–SKIS.*

★**"Co-Housing: A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves."** December 3, 11, & 15. A chance to learn about this local group's efforts to create a co-housing community in the Ann Arbor area, comprised of environmentally responsible and affordable private homes with some shared facilities. The purpose is to create a cooperatively designed neighborhood that fosters interconnectedness among residents. Snack and beverages provided. *7–9 p.m., 2518 Jade Ct. (2 blocks north of Scio Church off S. Maple). Free. For information, call Nick at 769–0268.*

★**"Druidic Lore and Magical Tradition": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** December 3 & 17. First in a 6-month series on Celtic and Druidic lore and tradition. The first part, "Druidic Lore" (7–8:30 p.m.), is an introductory lecture open to all. "Magical Tradition" (8:30–10 p.m.), a training course in Western ritual magic, is also open to all, but preregistration is required. *7–10 p.m., Ancient Formula Health Foods and Herbs, 1677 Plymouth Rd. (in the Courtyard Shops below Subway). Free. To reserve a spot in "Magical Tradition," call Johnna at 485–8632.*

★**Speed Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club.** December 3, 10, & 17. Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 23rd year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. Warm-ups begin at 7:15 p.m. *7:30 p.m., U-M Track & Tennis Bldg., Hoover at S. State. Free. 663–9740.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Sweet Adelines County Connection.** December 3, 10, & 17. All women invited to drop in and listen to or participate in the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus, formerly known as the Ann Arbor Sweet Adelines. *7:30–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Union Hall, 8975 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to first-time visitors ($18 monthly dues for those who join). 995–4110.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** December 3, 10, & 17. All male singers invited to attend the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. Visitors welcome. *7:30 p.m., Domino House, Domino's Farms EBA Club, Lobby D, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free to first-time visitors ($70 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call John Hancock at 769–8169.*

★**Community Education Series: Dawn Farm.** Every Tuesday (except December 24). Local professionals discuss substance abuse and related issues. Tonight: social worker Ronald Harrison discusses **"Adolescent Substance Abuse."** *7:30 p.m., Dawn Farm, 6333 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free; donations accepted. 485–8725.*

★**Monthly Meeting: U-M Science Research Club.** U-M botany professor emeritus Herb Wagner, a very popular lecturer with general audiences, discusses **"Saving Rare Plant Species of Disturbed Places,"** and U-M botany researcher Anne Benninghoff, a member of the Electrostatics Society of America, discusses **"Bees, Pollen, and Electrostatics."** *7:30 p.m., G390 Dental Bldg., 1011 North University. Free. 763–5194.*

★**"A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** December 3, 10, & 17. Talk by Gelek Rinpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who currently lives in Ann Arbor. Occasionally, the talk is given by Rinpoche's longtime student Aura Glaser (former owner of Crazy Wisdom Bookstore) or a visiting guest speaker. *7:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 211 E. Ann. Free, but donations are accepted. 994–3387.*

★**Biweekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Club members show their recent slides & prints. All invited. *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free ($10 annual dues for those who join). 663–3763, 665–6597.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Chavrim B'Shirim.** All invited to join local mixed chorus directed by Marilyn Krimm that specializes in choral music (in various languages) by lesser known Jewish composers. Last meeting until January. The chorus presents a Hanukkah concert on December 10 (see listing). *7:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 663–1978.*

"The Piano"
Tragedy and tumult

We thought if another week or so went by, we wouldn't have to wait in the long lines to see "The Piano." Well, we were wrong. So, on a frigid December night a few years back, my wife, Mary, and I stood in front of Dascola Barbers, waiting for the line to move so we could take our comfortable, warm seats in the front row balcony of the Michigan Theater.

I didn't know much about the film—other than about the controversial use of frontal nudity. And even though I found it disturbing that the big controversy in a feminist film (by feminist director Jane Campion) would be roughly five seconds of male frontal nudity, Mary didn't think it was a big deal.

"I don't think Campion is using Harvey Keitel's nudity to sell tickets the way 'Basic Instinct' used Sharon Stone's nudity. That story revolved around the display of her body parts; I think this is a story that has a brief moment of nudity. It seems much more realistic and not exploitative," she reasoned, and then filled me in on what else she knew about the film. "It's about an Englishwoman, played by Holly Hunter, who can't speak. Her piano speaks for her. Her father sells her into marriage to a man in New Zealand, played by Sam Neill, who she's never met. She drags this beautiful piano and her daughter to New Zealand. That's about all I know."

Ada, the Englishwoman, turned out to be a tragic figure whose fate is controlled by the brutish Victorian men in her life. It is only through her decision (made at the age of six) never to speak that she acquires power. She turns to the piano for expression and passion. Campion hints at the motives for her silence, and at the circumstances behind the brief relationship that produced her daughter, but before we can puzzle out much of what's going on, we find ourselves on a beach in New Zealand with tumultuous waves crashing around mother, daughter, and piano.

Ada elevates her piano to mythic proportions—after a while, its looming omnipresence makes it seem less like a piano and more like the monolith in "2001: A Space Odyssey"—and her devotion grows into a blind obsession, the consequences of which aren't pretty. Throughout the film, her daughter, played superbly by Anna Paquin, acts as her protector. How Ada's relationship with her daughter changes, when her world expands to include her love for another person, becomes the focal point of the film. Ironically, it's a key from the piano that leads to Ada's undoing.

This is a visually stunning film with Academy Award–winning performances by Hunter and Paquin. If not for "Schindler's List," director Campion and cinematographer Stewart Dryburgh probably would have won Oscars as well. The film left too many questions unanswered for me, but Mary thought it was fabulous and moving. During one particularly sad scene, I thought Mary was going to hurl herself over the balcony rail, but I held her back.

"The Piano" returns to the Michigan Theater Tuesday and Wednesday, December 3 and 4.

—Dan Moray

Peach Mountain Intermediate Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. December 3 & 17. Contra dancing for those who are beyond the basics. Caller is Erna-Lynne Bogue, with live music by David West & Donna Baird. New dancers welcome; no partner necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and casual attire. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a 30-minute couples dancing lesson. This month: the **hambo.** *7:30–9:40 p.m., Chapel Hill Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (north of Plymouth Rd.). $4 donation. 663–0744, 426–0261.*

★**Video Planning Meeting: Peace InSight.** All invited to help with the production of this local TV series on peace and social justice issues, aired on cable channel 9. *8 p.m., Espresso Royale Caffe, 214 S. Main. Free. For information, call 761–7749.*

Ray McNeice: Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Reading by this Ohio poet, storyteller, and musician who's been called "a folk troubadour descendant of Woody Guthrie." His video poem, "Boston Driving," was an award winner at San Francisco's 19th Annual Poetry Film & Video Awards, and he's a member of Poetry Alive!, a North Carolina-based performance troupe that brings poetry into schools around the country. McNeice's reading is preceded by open-mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologuists in verse, and a "poetry slam," in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a $10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. The evening concludes with a second open-mike session following the featured reading. *8–11 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. $3. For information, call Larry Francis at 426–3451.*

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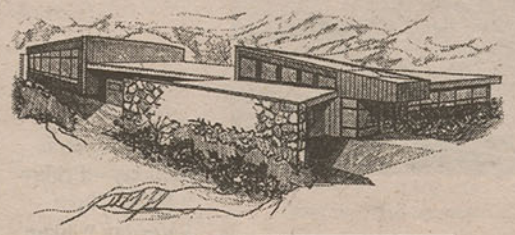

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★**University Choir: U-M School of Music.** Jerry Blackstone directs this U-M student chorus in a program of works by Gibbon, Halsey Stevens, Sweelinck, Kuhnau, and Folke Rabe. Also, the women of the choir sing Korean composer Tae Kyn Ham's "Kashiri," Schumann's "Maedchenlieder," and Bach's "Ruft und fleht." The men sing Paulus's "Hallelu!," Bach's "De Herr segne euch," and the Kyrie and Gloria movements from Durufle's "Cum Jubilo." Pianist Jennifer Joop and organist Michael Budewitz assist. *8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at S. State. Free. 763–4726.*

★**Early Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Well-known U-M harpsichordist Ed Parmentier directs this U-M student ensemble in a program of choral and instrumental works. Includes excerpts from Bach's B Minor Mass and Cantata 68, motets by Schutz, Philips, and Gabrieli, and "L'Imperiale" from Couperin's "Les Nations." *8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Blanche Anderson Moore Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

★**Angela Chang and Alvin Chow: U-M School of Music.** These two award-winning young pianists perform solo and duo works by Ravel, Schubert, George Crumb, Dvorak, and Chopin. Chang, described in *The New York Times* as "a charming and highly promising young pianist," has performed around the world and taken first place honors in the prestigious Arthur Rubenstein and Montreal International competitions, among others. Chow, winner of the MTNA Collegiate Artists Competition among many other awards, has likewise performed as a soloist with leading orchestras in the U.S. and abroad. *8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

Gillian Welch: The Ark. Highly acclaimed young singer-songwriter whose music draws imaginatively on blues, gospel, and other old-time country styles. Her starkly evocative neo-traditionalist songs have been recorded by the likes of Emmylou Harris and Tim & Mollie O'Brien. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 (members, students, & seniors, $9) at the door only. 761–1451.*

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. December 3, 10, & 17. Ballroom dancing to live music by Detroit-area bands. All singles invited; married couples also welcome. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a dance class ($3). Dress code observed. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. $5 (members, $4). 971–2015.*

★**"Trivia Night": Heidelberg Restaurant.** December 3, 10, & 17. Informal 8-round trivia game, with 10 questions per round, played by teams comprised of any number of players. (Most teams have 4 players). $20 first prize, $10 second prize. Also, lightning rounds for drink and dinner specials. *9–11 p.m., Heidelberg restaurant, 415 N. Main. Free. 663–7758.*

FILMS

FV Women & Film Series. "The Piano" (Jane Campion, 1993). December 3 & 4. *See review, p. 109.* Lyrical, impressionistic film about a mute woman who takes her piano with her to New Zealand when she enters an arranged marriage. Holly Hunter, Harvey Keitel. Mich., 4:10 p.m. **"Jacob's Ladder"** (Adrian Lyne, 1990). December 3 & 4. Suspense thriller. Tim Robbins. Mich., 6:40 p.m. **"Microcosmos"** (Claude Nurisdany & Marie Perennou, 1996). See 1 Sunday. Mich., 9 p.m.

4 WEDNESDAY

Holiday Arts & Crafts & Baked Goods Sale: Northeast Seniors. Sale of woodcrafts, paintings, drawings, painted sweatshirts, jewelry, and more created by members of this lively senior activities organization. Also, baked goods and the *Domino's Seniors Family Favorites* cookbook. Held at Domino's Farms, where the hallways are lavishly decorated for Christmas. *8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Domino's Farms Lobby D & E (1st bldg.), 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free admission. 996–0070.*

"Christmas Cookies": Kitchen Port. Carroll Thomson of Carroll's Corner (and the late lamented Trellis Cafe and Tea Room) shows how to make some of her delicious and unusual cookies. *Noon–1 p.m., Kitchen Port (Kerrytown). $5 includes coffee, taste samples, and recipes. 665–9188.*

★**"Herculaneum": U-M Museum of Art.** December 4 & 5. Half-hour documentary about the excavation of this ancient city that was buried along with Pompeii in the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. *12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Advent Concert Series: First Congregational Church.** December 4, 11, & 18. First in a series of three Advent season concerts. Today: Donald Williams directs the **American Chorale of Sacred Music,** an independent local chorus, in a program of seasonal music. Organ accompanist is Marilyn Mason. *12:15–12:45 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at S. State. Free. 662–1679.*

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. December 4, 11, & 18. A variety of activities for kids. *3:30–5:15 p.m., Buhr Park outdoor ice rink, 2751 Packard Rd. $2. 971–3228.*

★**Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music.** December 4–6. U-M voice students perform assorted scenes from opera and Shakespeare's plays. Today: **Czech opera scenes** and **scenes from Shakespeare.** *5 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

Monthly Meeting: Homeopathic Study Group of Ann Arbor. All invited to join this study group that focuses on acute care and first aid. Some knowledge of or previous experience with homeopathic medicine is recommended. *6 p.m., location to be announced. $3. 994–4937.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club.** Every Wednesday (except December 25). Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note*: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *6:15–7:45 p.m., Concordia College Manor, 4090 Geddes Rd. Free to visitors. Dues: $24 semiannually. 995–7351.*

★**". . . And the Beat Goes On": Michigan Heart and Vascular Institute.** Every Wednesday (except December 25). St. Joseph Mercy Hospital cardiovascular experts offer a series of lectures on maintaining a healthy heart. Visitors can attend any or all of the classes. Today's topic: **"Understanding Your Medications."** Also this month: **"Managing Your Stress"** (December 11), and **"Integrating Exercise Into Your Lifestyle"** (December 18). *6:30 p.m., Michigan Heart and Vascular Institute Auditorium, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5301 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 712–3583.*

★**Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** See 3 Tuesday. This week's topic: **"Snow/Winter."** 6:30–7 p.m.

Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Bridge Club. Every Wednesday (except December 25). Each two-person team plays two or three hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 665–3805.*

★**"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble.** December 4, 5, 11, & 12, with free cookies on Wednesdays. Barnes & Noble staffers present storytelling programs and craft activities for kids. Tonight: **Curious George** is on hand to read some of his stories. Yellow hats optional. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**African-American Book Club: Little Professor Book Company.** All invited to discuss a book by an African-American author. This month's selection to be announced. *7–8 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Computer Society.** Speaker and topic to be announced. All invited to join this club for hardware and software computer professionals interested in networks, multimedia, systems integration, object-oriented programming, C++, Unix, Windows,

and other contemporary computing topics. *7:30–9:30 p.m., 1200 U-M Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences Bldg., 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. For information, use E-mail through Internet (aacs-info@msen.com) or CompuServe (72241,155), or call 741–1188.*

★**"Christian Science Testimony Meeting": First Church of Christ, Scientist.** Every Wednesday (except December 25). The church's lay reader reads different selections each week from the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. Followed by testimony of Christian Science healing by congregation members. All invited. *7:30–8:30 p.m., First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1833 Washtenaw. Free. 662–1694.*

Monthly Meeting: Vegetarian Information Network & Exchange. All invited to bring a vegan (no dairy, eggs, honey, or other animal products) dish and recipe to share at a festive holiday party. Also, lots of vegan information and recipes available. *7:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland, $1 (members, free) donation. 426–8525, 995–6320, (517) 423–3226.*

★**Shamanic Journeys: Creation Spirituality.** Every Wednesday (except December 25). Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665–3522.*

★**Roy Baumeister: Borders Books and Music.** This Case Western Reserve University liberal arts professor reads from his new book, *Evil: Inside Human Violence and Cruelty*, which integrates evidence from psychology, history, anthropology, and other disciplines. *7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Folk Dancing: U-M Folk Dance Club.** December 4, 10, & 18. Line, circle, and couples dances from around the world. All invited; no partner needed. Beginners and onlookers welcome. New dances taught at 8 & 9 p.m. Refreshments available. *7:30 p.m., Leonardo's, U-M Pierpont Commons, corner of Bonisteel and Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–7544, 662–4258, 769–0152.*

★**Monthly Meeting: The Home Recording Artists of the Ann Arbor Area.** All invited to swap tapes and talk about home recording issues, including equipment, songwriting, the music business, and more. The group is planning a compilation CD to be released early in 1997. *8 p.m., Espresso Royale Caffe, 214 S. Main. Free. 996–6329.*

★**"Transformations: Personal and Planetary Healing": Network Healing Community.** Every Wednesday (except December 25). Local alternative healers discuss various approaches to physical and spiritual health. Tonight: Leah Song discusses **"The Body in Psychotherapy: Gateway to the Soul."** *8 p.m., Network Chiropractic Center, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but space limited; reservations requested. 761–5908.*

★**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Institute.** December 4 & 18. Part of a series of biweekly lectures by U-M physics professor emeritus Ernst Katz on Steiner's *Knowledge of Higher Worlds: How Is It Achieved*. No previous knowledge of Steiner's work is necessary. Followed by discussion & refreshments. *8–10 p.m., Rudolf Steiner Institute, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 662–9355.*

★**James Ellroy: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** *See review, p. 121.* This critically acclaimed and best-selling crime novelist reads from *My Dark Places*, his recently published memoir about his mother's unsolved murder in 1958 (when he was 10) and its effect on his life. Ellroy has been described as a "crime writer of unusual range and ambition" for whom "crime is an underlying reality." Followed by a reception. Refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**U-M Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** This student jazz group, heard regularly Sunday nights at the Bird of Paradise club, performs big-band music of Count Basie, Thad Jones, and Bob Mintzner, as well as recent arrangements by director **Ellen Rowe,** a new U-M piano professor who has collaborated with jazz greats around the world and was recently a featured guest on Marian McPartland's "Piano Jazz" public radio show. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 763–4726.*

"A Britten Extravaganza": Art Fair Song Fest. Pianist Kevin Bylsma and local singers to be announced perform vocal works by English composer Benjamin Britten in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of his death. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 & $7 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Chanticleer: University Musical Society. Described as "an orchestra of voices," this internationally acclaimed 12-member male chorus from San Francisco performs seamless a cappella renditions of everything from Renaissance madrigals to gospel, jazz, Chinese folk music, and contemporary music, including compositions by Peter Schickele (aka P. D. Q. Bach) and Morton Gould. This is their first Ann Arbor appearance since 1992. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a talk by U-M music school associate dean James Borders on **"Christmas Sacred Vocal Music, Medieval to Modern."** *8 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 2250 E. Stadium. Tickets $20 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Orange Then Blue: OTO Productions. *See review, p. 117.* Eagerly anticipated Ann Arbor debut of this acclaimed 12-piece jazz ensemble from Brooklyn, New York, known for its wide repertoire of original compositions and arrangements in an astonishing array of musical styles and colors. A typical set encompasses everything from arrangements of works by Monk, Mingus, Ellington, and Charlie Parker to originals based on Bulgarian folk music and Irish and Andean folk music. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Tickets $15 in advance at Schoolkids', Encore Music, and Main Street News; and at the door. 663–0696.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Invasion of the Improv": Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. Every Wednesday (except December 25). An evening of improvisational comedy with the **Portuguese Rodeo Clown Company,** a popular local troupe that performs skits based on themes or situations suggested by the audience. Also, open-mike performers. Alcohol served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $3. 996–9080.*

FILMS

FV Women & Film Series. "The Piano" (Jane Campion, 1993). See 3 Tuesday. Mich., 5 p.m. **"Microcosmos"** (Claude Nurisdany & Marie Perennou, 1996). See 1 Sunday. Mich., 7:30 p.m. **"Jacob's Ladder"** (Adrian Lyne, 1990). See 3 Tuesday. Mich., 9:30 p.m.

5 THURSDAY

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** Every Thursday. A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with an educational film or occasional speaker. This week: Brookhaven Manor resident Alfred Rosenberg, a retired cantor and religion teacher from Germany, discusses **"Jerusalem to Ann Arbor: A Journey Through Western Civilization."** At 11 a.m., **Current Events,** a discussion group led by nonagenarian Ben Bagdade. At 12:45 p.m., an educational or cultural presentation. This week: **"The Criminal System,"** a talk by local criminal appellate and civil rights attorney Jeanice Dagher-Margosian, followed by a question-and-answer session. Also, at noon, a homemade kosher dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors). The weekly program concludes with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group** (2 p.m.), a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. Also, today only, Huron Valley Ambulance community relations assistant Michael Qualls offers free blood pressure testing (11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.). All invited. *10 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

48th Annual Greens Market: Women's Farm and Garden Association. A wide selection of fresh greenery, including variegated and green holly, incense cedar, boxwood, and other specialty greens. Also, handmade gifts and crafts, and a raffle. Lunch available (11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.). Proceeds benefit local nonprofit organizations. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 769–0691.*

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- Introductory Evening, January 22, 7:30 p.m.
- David Sloan, Faculty Chair of Green Meadow Waldorf School in Spring Valley, N.Y. Friday evening lecture, Saturday workshop. "The Role of Literature and Drama in Adolescent Development" January 24, and 25th.
- Introductory Evening, February 19, 7:30 p.m.

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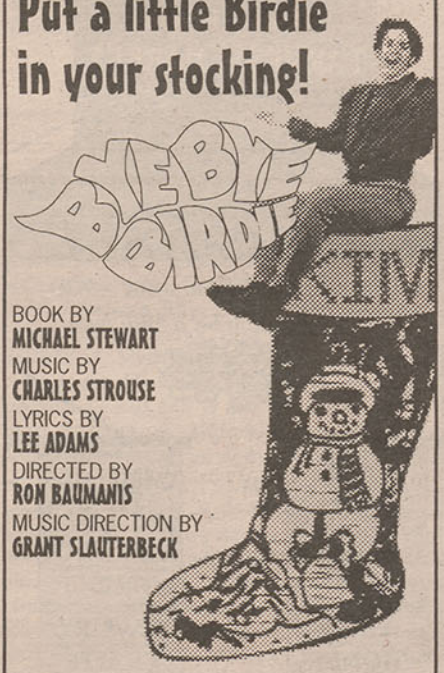

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EVENTS *continued*

★Monthly Meeting: La Leche League of Ann Arbor. All nursing mothers are invited to learn about the benefits of breastfeeding. Also this month, different La Leche chapters meet December 11 (7:30 p.m., 4020 E. Loch Alpine) and December 18 (10 a.m., 5362 Indian Trail, Ypsilanti). *10 a.m., 520 Soule Blvd. Free. For information, call 663–9165 (today's meeting), 426–4940 (December 11 meeting), or 484–1767 (December 18 meeting).*

★"Awaken Your Light Body." Every Thursday. Meditation program led by local spiritual channeler, healer, and counselor Sandra Shears. *10–11:30 a.m., location to be announced. Free; donations accepted. 994–0047.*

★"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble. See 4 Wednesday. Today: **Curious George** is on hand to read some of his stories. Yellow hats optional. 11 a.m.

★"On Suing One's Siblings in 13th-Century Japan": U-M Center for Japanese Studies. Talk by Stanford University history professor Jeffrey Mass. *Noon, Lane Hall Commons, 204 S. State. Free. 764–6307.*

"Advent Noon Recital Series": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum. December 5, 12, & 19. Today: Donald Williams directs the **American Chorale of Sacred Music,** an independent local chorus, in a program of seasonal music. Organ accompanist is Carol Muehlig. All invited. *Noon–1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church social hall, 1432 Washtenaw. $3 (includes buffet lunch). 662–4466.*

★Greenhills School Choirs: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art. Wendy Bloom directs Greenhills school students in a variety of vocal music. *12:10 p.m., University Hospital 1st-floor lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network. Every Thursday. A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 9). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features one or two speakers (with no more than two graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. "Access Soapbox" shows are aired daily for one week, beginning on Sunday. *2–7 p.m., CTN studio, Edison Center Suite LL114, 425 S. Main. Free. Reservations accepted Tuesday through Friday of the week preceding your appearance. 769–7422.*

Chess Clubs: Adventures in Chess. Every Thursday. A chance for young people age 17 & under (3:30–7:30 p.m.) and adults (7–11 p.m.) to play chess with their peers. Chess sets provided. *3:30–11 p.m., Adventures in Chess, 220 S. Main (below Elmo's Supershirts). $3 (members, free). Memberships are $49 a year. 665–0612.*

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. See 4 Wednesday. Today: **Mozart opera scenes** and **Shakespeare monologues.** 5 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

"Cooking Venison": Kitchen Port. Sparrow's Meat Market owner Bob Sparrow discusses using venison in everything from sausage to steaks. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Kitchen Port (Kerrytown). $7 includes recipes, taste samples, and coffee. 665–9188.*

★"Friendship Program": Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. December 5 & 19. All youths and adults invited to join an interfaith program that includes music, Bible lessons, craft activities, and socializing. *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. Free. 769–8008.*

★Monthly Meeting: Formerly Employed Mothers at the Leading Edge. Networking meetings open to all women who have interrupted their careers to care for their children at home. Tonight, a brainstorming session on **"Gifts on a Budget."** *7–9 p.m., Genesis Foundation, Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. For details, call Trudy at 663–7149.*

★Weekly Meeting: Washtenaw Toastmasters. Every Thursday. Members develop public speaking skills in a supportive environment. A good opportunity to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Free to visitors. *Note*: Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). *7–9 p.m., 777 Bldg. dining room, 777 E. Eisenhower at S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: $24 a year (after a one-time nonrefundable fee of $16). For information, call Alberta Richards at 332–5346.*

★"Trouble-Free Travel": Barnes & Noble. Talk by Ann Arborite Harry Knitter, author of *Holding Pattern,* a book about plane travel. *7–8 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall. December 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, & 22. Musicians and other entertainers present a series of family programs. Today, **The Little Band,** the duo of Rob and Anne Burns, performs winter tunes. *7 p.m., Briarwood Mall Grand Court. Free. 769–9610.*

★"Burn This": U-M Basement Arts Theater. December 5–7. Allison Tkac directs fellow U-M students in Lanford Wilson's high-voltage tragicomedy about a diametrically opposed man and woman who meet following the untimely death of the man's brother, who was the woman's dance partner, and discover a compelling but dangerous attraction growing out of their shared grief. *7 p.m., Arena Stage (basement of Frieze Bldg.), 105 S. State St. Free. 764–5350.*

★"Poetry in Motion": Washtenaw Community College. WCC dance students present a recital showcasing various dance styles. *7 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3300.*

★Monthly Meeting: Community Action on Substance Abuse. All invited to help plan substance-abuse prevention activities with this local grassroots volunteer group. *7:15 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 973–7892.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Detroit Mercy. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $12 & $15. 764–0247.*

★"Links to Literature": University Musical Society/Ann Arbor Chapter of the Links/Borders Books and Music/Ann Arbor District Library. Members of The Links, an African-American women's service organization, discuss some of the prominent figures of the Harlem Renaissance. Speakers include retired Ann Arbor Public Schools special education director Hazel Turner and local psychiatrist and Kwanzaa House gallery owner Shirley Phelps Jenkins. Kellie Wingo presents her videotape titled "The Artistic Influence and Contribution of Dr. Eva Jessye, Harlem Renaissance Artist, to the Ann Arbor Community." Also, video histories of local African-American community members, and a photo and art display. A related exhibit is on display at the library through January 6. In conjunction with the upcoming performances of "The Harlem Nutcracker" December 18–21 (see listings). *7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 994–2335.*

★Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Jaycees. All people ages 21–39 are invited to join this organization devoted to promoting leadership training, community service, and individual development. Discussion topics to be announced. Newcomers welcome. *7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., room 101, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 913–9629.*

★Monthly Meeting: Huron Hills Lapidary Society. Speaker and topic to be announced. Also, members bring in rock and mineral specimens to swap, and a silent auction of materials from the club's collection. All invited. *7:30 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 665–7166.*

Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Every Thursday. Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd). $3. 769–4324.*

★"Oz's Percussion Jam": Oz's Music. All percussionists invited to bring their instruments

Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys

Beauty beyond cliché

I will attempt to get through this piece without depending on the descriptors so frequently applied to Cajun music—"stew," "gumbo," "spicy," "swamp," "alligator," "rollicking," etc. Not that these words won't adhere like roux, uh, *glue* to the latest offering by Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys, it's just that this music does much more than make you hungry, nervous about gators, and antsy to dance.

Loyal sons of the Cajun heartland (well, most of them), the Playboys are at the vanguard of South Louisiana music, with one foot firmly planted in the pungent and smoky mists of traditional Cajun music and the other free to create originals that will be classics in their own time. Their latest CD, "La Toussaint," features four new compositions that allow the personalities of these young world-class musicians to make their own stand.

Case in point is the title track. The day after Halloween is La Toussaint (All Saints' Day), when the cemeteries of Cajun Louisiana are filled with families gathered around the freshly painted tombs of their ancestors and newly lost. The air carries the scent of flowers and the sounds of prayer. Bassist Peter Schwartz attended the funeral of Riley's grandmother and within a few days had penned this haunting and melancholy waltz. Fiddler David Greely added words, and the result is an unusually dark, extremely evocative song filled with death and grim humor. If this gets you down, the next cut "Between Eunice and Opelousas" (by Riley's cousin Marc Savoy) will send any lingering phantoms two-stepping off into eternity.

At the helm, of course, is Riley, golden-boy squeeze-box artist and fiddle prince of the bayou. Riley plays a single row, ten-button diatonic accordion, handmade by Savoy. Born and raised in the prairie town of Mamou, a community famous for its musicians, Riley has a firm grasp on the torch that guides the post-Beausoleil generation. He and his cohorts play with giddy, stormy accuracy; their enthusiasm and skill have garnered them awards, world tours, and festival appearances all over the United States.

The Mamou Playboys' voluminous and laudatory press material includes many other descriptors. Some, such as "psychedelic," don't really apply (a few cross-speaker fades do not paisley imply), but others—"breakneck," "high-energy," "rock-solid," "up-tempo"—hit the mark. There is one word, however, that I keep coming back to: beautiful. This is beautiful music. For all its freneticism, fever, and fire, there's a beauty that can't be glossed over. It gets you dancing, and it *moves* you.

Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys are at the Ark on Wednesday, December 11.

—Kate Conner-Ruben

and join a jam session hosted by Reba Devine. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.*

★**"Herculaneum": U-M Museum of Art.** See 4 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

"Open Jam": Griff's Jams. Every Thursday. Musicians of all levels of ability invited to bring their instruments to the sound rooms formerly occupied by WPAG radio to meet other musicians, make music, and have fun. Bring sheet music to pass out. Organized by local musician and DJ Jim Griffin. *8–11 p.m., 106 E. Liberty (3rd floor). $2 suggested donation. 761–MUSIC.*

★**Shirley Geok-lin Lim: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This University of California English and women's studies professor, an award-winning poet and fiction writer, reads from *Among the White Moon Faces: An Asian-American Memoir of the Homelands,* her recently published memoir about her childhood in Malaysia. Followed by a reception. Refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Creative Arts Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Ed Sarath directs the U-M music student ensemble in original works and collective improvisations. The group recently performed at New York's Knitting Factory. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 763–4726.*

"All-Star Benefit Concert": The Ark. Thirteen of the area's top musicians gather for an evening of pop, rock, blues, and folk to benefit the 2,000 *Detroit Free Press* and *Detroit News* workers who have been on strike since July 1995. Performers are singer-songwriter **Dick Siegel,** offbeat pop-rock singer-songwriter **Frank Allison,** back-country folksinger-composer **Jay Stielstra,** folk-pop singer-songwriter **Lisa Hunter,** singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist **Chris Buhalis,** the bluegrass-based acoustic band **Drivetrain,** folk-styled singer-songwriter **K. C. Groves,** folk-rock singer-songwriter **Brian Lillie,** blues-oriented vocalist and multi-instrumentalist **Rollie Tussing III,** blues songwriter and balladeer **Jo Serrapere,** folk-oriented singer-songwriter **Audrey Becker,** acoustic singer-guitarist **David Mosher** (formerly of the Deadbeat Society), and Detroit singer-songwriter **Jere Stormer.** *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 (strikers & family members, $5) at the door only. 761–1451.*

"The Yeoman of the Guard": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. December 5–8. Mary Locker directs this accomplished local town-and-gown company as it opens its 50th season with one of Gilbert and Sullivan's darker operettas, a tragicomedy set in Tudor England. The plot hinges on the anticipated execution of the heroic Colonel Fairfax, whose devious relative stands to receive a substantial inheritance if the colonel dies unmarried. But on the day of his execution, Fairfax asks a friend to find him a wife—any wife—so that he can thwart his evil kinsman's plot. The friend locates the financially strapped traveling minstrels Elsie and Jack Point and promises them a sum of money if Elsie agrees to the short-lived marriage. However, Fairfax is rescued at the last minute, and suddenly Elsie finds herself legally married to a man she's never met. Despite its many comic plot twists, "The Yeoman of the Guard" has an ironic edge to it, and it's the only G&S operetta with a (partially) unhappy ending. It's generally thought that the work was librettist Gilbert's attempt to placate composer Sullivan, who had soured on their collaboration and longed to write grand opera. Cast includes Robert Sherrane, Bronwen Ray, David Zinn, Matthew Grace, Tricia Klapthor, Liza Wirtz, and Charles Sutherland. Music director is Steven Bizub. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets $10 & $12 (discounts for seniors, students, & children) in advance at the Mendelssohn box office or by calling 764–0450.*

"Sherlock Holmes": U-M Theater Department. December 5–8. U-M drama professor John Neville-Andrews directs U-M drama students in actor William Gillette's 1899 adaptation of Conan Doyle's melodrama featuring his famous fictional sleuth. The action concerns a blackmail mystery that pits Holmes against his arch rival, Professor Moriarty, and finds him falling in love. This production uses a version of Gillette's script edited and adapted by Shaw Festival artistic director Christopher Newton for the 1994 Shaw Festival, where it was a big hit. Newton's adaptation lends a sharper, somewhat unconventional edge to the characterizations of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty. *8 p.m., Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets $14 & $18 (students, $7) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–0450.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Eddie Clark: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. December 5–7. Ann Arbor debut of this animated, energetic monologuist, a frequent performer on cable TV who specializes in tall tales and

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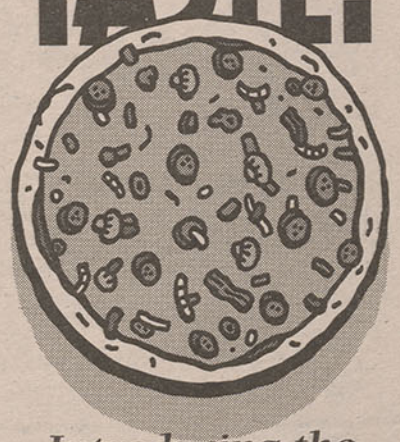

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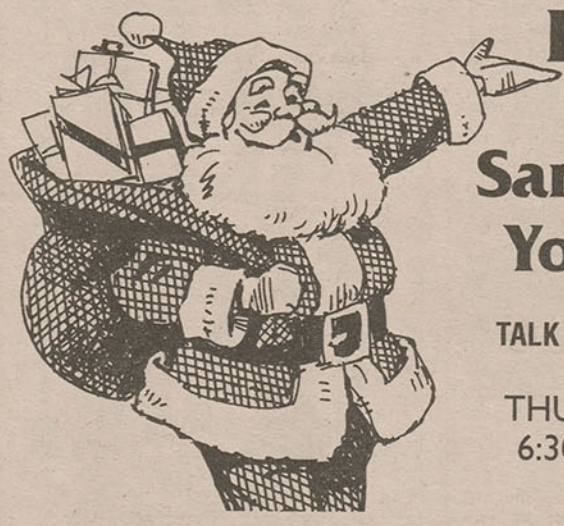

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TALK WITH "SANTA LIVE"

THURSDAY, DEC. 12
6:30 P.M. –8:00 P.M.

CTN Cable 9

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CTN
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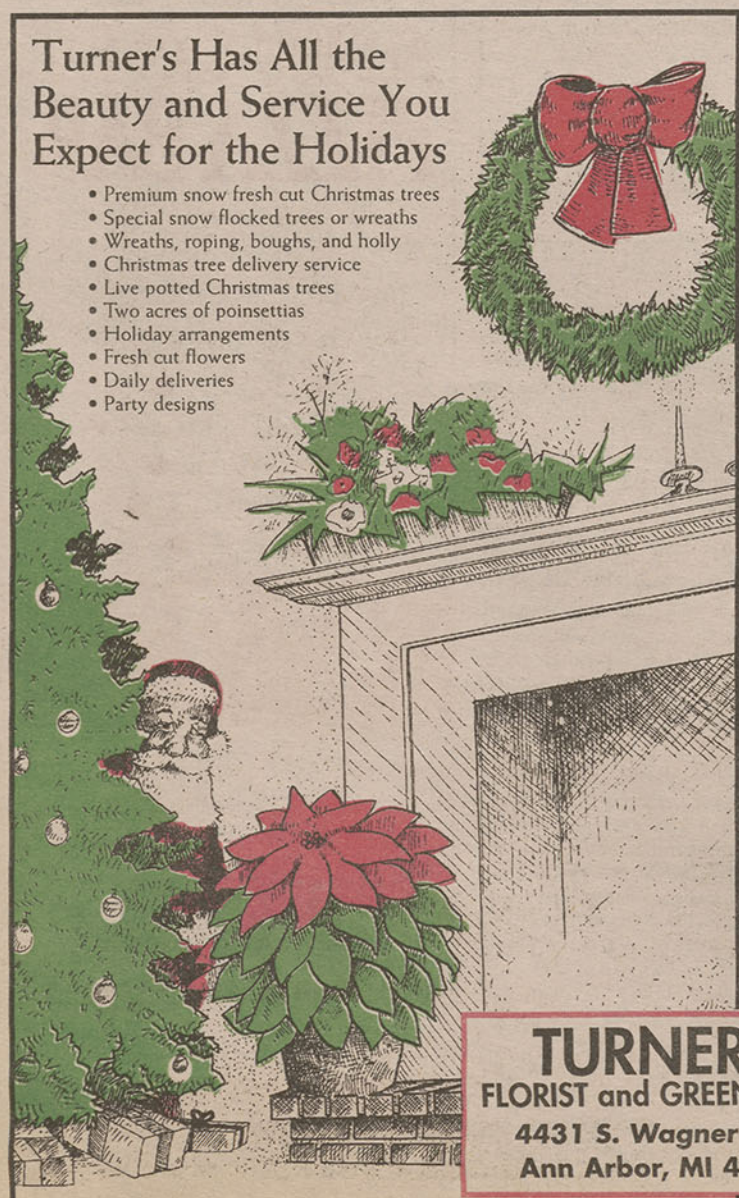
For more info call
769-7422



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satiric characterizations, drawing frequently on his experiences as a U.S. Marine, a U.N. security officer, and a city cop. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $10 (members, $5) reserved seating in advance, $10 (members, free) general admission at the door. Memberships are $45 a year. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Microcosmos" (Claude Nurisdany & Marie Perennou, 1996). See 1 Sunday. Mich., 7 & 8:45 p.m.

6 FRIDAY

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. December 6 & 7. This extremely popular sale features used Christmas decorations (artificial Christmas trees, tested sets of tree lights, candles, etc.), all sorts of children's games and toys, skis, skates, bicycles, sleds, books, hardware, appliances, boots, coats, and lots of good quality furniture, from chairs and couches to lamps, desks, and cabinets. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Kiwanis Activities Center, W. Washington at First. Free admission. 665–0450.*

★14th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. December 6–9. One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit features almost 800 creches (Nativity scenes) from 78 countries collected or designed by women of the church. It features rooms devoted to miniature creches and a "touch table" of unbreakable creches for children to arrange and rearrange. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, cornhusks, and paper, and styles range from simple childlike figures to hand-carved traditional figures to elegant original designs. They range in size from an image inscribed on a pinhead (viewed with a magnifying glass) to creches with 18-inch figures. The popular 11-inch French Santon exhibit has been expanded with several new figures, and the Santon exhibt now includes different sizes of creches. Also, a Christmas tree decorated with handmade ornaments. Today's program includes a **Christmas concert** (7:30–8:30 p.m.) featuring performances by the **First Presbyterian Handbell Choir** (under Carol Muehlig), the vocal ensemble **One Accord,** vocalist **Ruth Christensen,** and others to be announced. *10 a.m.–9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 665–7852, 668–2477, 663–3699 (days).*

★"The Wacky World of Animals": EMU Music Department. A children's concert by the EMU University Symphony Orchestra, with guest appearances by the Arianna String Quartet (see 1 Sunday listing), the University Concert Winds, tubist Lance Loiselle, and "Swoop" the EMU mascot. The program includes "The Hut on Chicken's Legs" and "Ballet of Chicks in Their Shells" from Mussorgsky/Ravel's Pictures at an Exhibition, Haydn's "Bird" String Quartet, John Williams's "Jurassic Park," Thomas Duffy's "Snakes," and George Kleinschmidt's "Tubby the Tuba." *10 a.m. & 12:45 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★"U.S. Imperialism and the Categorical Indeterminacy of Filipino American Writing": U-M Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies. Talk by Brown University American civilization professor Oscar Campomanes. *Noon, Lane Hall Commons, 204 S. State. Free. 764–0352.*

★"Holiday Party": U-M Turner Geriatric Clinic. All seniors age 55 & older invited to a holiday party. Refreshments. *2 p.m., Kellogg Eye Center auditorium, 1000 Wall St. Free. Reservations required. 764–2556.*

★David Quinn: Dave's Comics. This Ypsilanti-based comic book writer, who has written alternative and adult comics including *Faust, Nightvision,* and *Razor,* and written for film and theater as well, discusses his work and signs copies of his books. A limited number of free comics are available to visitors. *Late afternoon time to be announced, Dave's Comics, 623 E. William at State. Free. 665–6969.*

★21st Annual Christmas Parade and Santa's Village: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. Saline pulls out the stops to welcome Old St. Nick with a **parade** down Michigan Avenue ending in a **tree-lighting ceremony** (7 p.m.). Other festivities include a **pre-parade party** with Mrs. Claus, elves, entertainment, and gifts for kids (4:45–6:45 p.m., Saline Shopping Center), a performance by the renowned **Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic** (8 p.m., Union School), and a **Saline Historical Society open house** (4:30–10 p.m., Depot Museum). Also, **"Santa's Village"** at the Murphy's Crossing mall (103 S. Ann Arbor) features visits from Mrs. Claus (6 p.m.), Santa (8 p.m.), and live entertainment. Shuttle buses run throughout the afternoon. *4:30–10 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. 429–4494.*

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. See 4 Wednesday. Today: **Czech and Mozart opera scenes** and **scenes from Shakespeare.** 5 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

"Midnight Madness!" Most stores in the Main Street, State Street, South University, and Kerrytown shopping areas are open tonight until midnight to kick off the downtown holiday shopping season. Strolling entertainers along Main Street and Santa on State Street add to the festive atmosphere. Also, don't miss the Kempf House caroling party (see below). *7 p.m.–midnight, downtown Ann Arbor.*

★Caroling Party: Kempf House Center for Local History. All invited to gather at this historic home and warm up your voices around the newly tuned 1877 Steinway piano before heading out into the streets to sing Christmas carols with the Salvation Army brass band. Carolers then return to the Kempf House for hot drinks and cookies. *7 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994–4898.*

Silent Auction: Aikido Way of Harmony (Aikido Yoshokai Association of North America). Silent and live auction of various goods and services, raffles, food concessions, and an arts and crafts marketplace. Proceeds benefit a new building fund for the Aikido association. *7 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. $5 admission. 484–3149, (810) 855–2797.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). December 6 & 21. All invited to join in simple dancing to chants and songs from various spiritual and religious traditions. Beginners welcome. *7–9 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. $5 requested donation. For information, call Majid at (517) 381–0126 or John and Sylvia at 996–1332.*

19th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. December 6–8. A cast of some 175 Concordia students and staff and area children presents this traditional pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over the forces of sin and death. Originating in medieval England, the Boar's Head festival is a spectacle that combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, set to musical narration and full orchestra. It offers colorfully dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other characters from the medieval court, along with the traditional shepherds and wise men of Christmas lore. A highlight of the festival is the presentation of a roasted wild boar. The ferocious beast came to symbolize Satan, and its slaying represented the triumph of good over evil. A holiday dinner is served before tomorrow's performance. This immensely popular event sells out in advance year after year, so get your tickets early. *7 p.m., Concordia College Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $8 (Dec. 7 dinner & performance, $30) in advance at the Kreft Center box office. Phone reservations accepted beginning November 27. 995–4612.*

★"Disrupting the Public": U-M Center for Japanese Studies/Cinema Guild. Last in a weekly series of Japanese films that variously challenge the prevailing social order. Japanese, subtitles. Tonight: **"Harakiri,"** Kobayashi Masaki's 1962 drama about an impoverished samurai faced with an indifferent aristocracy when he seeks to avenge his family's honor. *7 p.m., U-M Natural Science Bldg. Auditorium (2nd floor), 830 North University at Thayer. Free. 764–6307.*

★**Rollie Tussing III: PJ's Used Records & CDs "No Kick Drums Acoustic Concert Series."** Live in-store performance by this local blues-oriented vocalist and multi-instrumentalist who plays National steel guitar. *7–8 p.m., PJ's Used Records & CDs, 619 Packard (upstairs). Free. 663–3441.*

★**"Burn This": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** See 5 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"Talk It Over": Knox Singles Ministries.** First of Washtenaw budget counselor and financial advisor Kathryn Greiner discusses **"Christmas Budgeting."** Refreshments. All singles invited. *7:30 p.m., Knox Presbyterian Church office, Eisenhower Commerce Center, Suite #5, 1514 Eisenhower Place at South Industrial. Free. 971–1793.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. Every Friday. All invited to play this tournament form of contract bridge in which identical hands are played by every table in order to compare individual scores. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Union Tap Room. $2 (students, $1). 996–1433.*

The Pennywhistle Players: Young People's Theater. Robin Heller directs this company of children ages 5–9 in an original show created by the young actors themselves in 8 weeks of discussion and improvisation. *7:30 p.m., location and ticket price to be announced. 996–3888.*

★**"An Evening of Sufi Chanting, Meditation, and Association": Haqqani Foundation.** Every Friday. All invited to join a program of chanting and meditation based on the traditional Naqshbandi spiritual path as taught by Grandshaykh Muhammad Nazim al-Haqqani, a Sufi master who lives in Cyprus. *8–10 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 665–2670.*

"Drum Circle." Every Friday. All invited to come and play percussion instruments (hand percussion only; no snare drums or cymbals) and learn rhythms. *8–10 p.m., Gallup Park meeting room (next to the canoe livery), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $2 donation.*

Spinning Stars Square Dance Club. With caller Glen Geer. All experienced dancers invited. Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. (off Dixboro Rd. north of Plymouth), Dixboro. $6 per couple. 662–3405.*

First Friday Square and Contra Dance. Dancing to live music by Licketysplit, with local callers John Freeman and John Walker. All dances taught; beginners and older children welcome. No partner necessary. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $6 (children, $3) at the door. 665–8405.*

★**Michael Eric Dyson: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This University of North Carolina communications professor, author of *Between God and Gangsta Rap*, reads from his acclaimed new book, *Race Rules: Navigating the Color Line*. Followed by a reception. Refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Jim Gustafson Tribute": Galerie Jacques.** Area poets to be announced gather to read their work in memory of the late Detroit poet Jim Gustafson. Also, opening for the exhibit "Anarmorphoses" (see 7 Saturday). Refreshments. *8 p.m. (exhibit opening) 9 p.m. (poetry reading), Galerie Jacques, 616 Wesley. Free. 665–9889.*

★**EMU Women's Chorus: EMU Music Department.** Ernest Brandon directs EMU music-student choir in a program to be announced. *8 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

41st Annual Study Break Concert: The Friars. This popular a cappella octet drawn from the U-M Men's Glee Club performs close-harmony arrangements of everything from oldies to contemporary pop. They recently released a new CD, "Nice." With special guests **58 Greene.** *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $7 in advance by calling 763–TKTS or 668–8480.*

"The Play Called Noah's Flood": EMU Theater of the Young. December 6 & 7. EMU drama professor Karen Smith Meyer directs Susan Zeder's family-oriented comedy, winner of the 1995 Distinguished Play Award from the American Alliance of Theater and Education. The story concerns a small medieval English town that decides to put on a play about the biblical story of Noah for its Easter pageant. Structured as a play within a play, the action uses broad humor and raucous physical comedy to explore the values of sharing and cooperation. Aimed at theatergoers age 5 & older. EMU's Theater of the Young, now in its 34th year, has won several awards, including recognition by the Children's Theater Association of America as one of the country's finest. *8 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St., EMU campus, Ypsilanti. (Take Huron River Dr. east to Lowell St. Take Lowell to Ford St. and turn right onto Ford. The theater is on the left, with parking on the right.) Tickets $10 (eves.), $8 (matinees), & $5 (children ages 5–13) in advance and at the door. 487–1221.*

"The Yeoman of the Guard": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Sherlock Holmes": U-M Theater Department. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Eddie Clark: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 5 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Friday Dance Jam: People Dancing Studio. December 6 & 20. Dancing to an eclectic mix of taped music, including worldbeat, funk, rap, R&B, soul, alternative rock 'n' roll, new folk, and pop. Also, occasional live drumming. An alternative to the bar scene for people who love to dance. All are invited to bring cassette tapes and acoustic musical instruments. Smoke-free, no alcohol. Dance barefoot or bring dancing shoes. Come with or without a dance partner; children welcome. *10 p.m., People Dancing Studio, 111 Third St. (west entrance between Huron and Washington). $2. Wheelchair-accessible. 996–2405.*

FILMS

CCS. "The Bride with White Hair" (Ronnie Yu, 1993). Film adaptation of this tale of star-crossed lovers from rival martial arts cults, one of the most enduring love stories in Chinese literature. Cantonese, subtitles. FREE. Children under 12 not admitted. AH-A, 8 p.m.

7 SATURDAY

Holiday Open House: Nielsen's Flowers. December 7 & 8. Sale of numerous poinsettias and other plants, gifts, Kwanzaa decorations, gardening angel ornaments, and Christopher Radko ornaments. Refreshments and door prizes. *8:30 a.m.–6 p.m., Nielsen's, 1021 Maiden Lane. Free admission. 994–6112.*

Monthly Show: Huron Gun Collectors. December 7 & 8. Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Food concessions. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $3 (members, $1). (810) 227–1637.*

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. See 6 Friday. 9 a.m.–noon.

Annual Holiday Bazaar and Children's Festival: Rudolf Steiner School. Handmade ornaments, wreaths, dolls, and wooden toys made by school parents according to Rudolf Steiner's educational principles. Also, children's books, beeswax candles and crayons, puppet shows, and a children's activity corner where kids can make gifts to take home. Bake sale, raffle, and refreshments. Live entertainment through the day. *9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995–4141.*

★**"Berries and Birds Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to identify various Michigan berries and to learn which birds eat which berries. Bring binoculars if you have a pair. *10 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration requested. 426–8211.*

★**"Arb Walk": Cyberspace Communications.** Every Saturday. All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk from Gallup Park through the U-M Arboretum. *10 a.m. Meet in Gallup Park parking lot, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 930–6564.*

Winter Magic Arts & Crafts Show: Daylily Promotions. Some 75 juried artisans offer woodcrafts, paintings, jewelry, clothing, silk and dried flowers, baskets, pottery, stained

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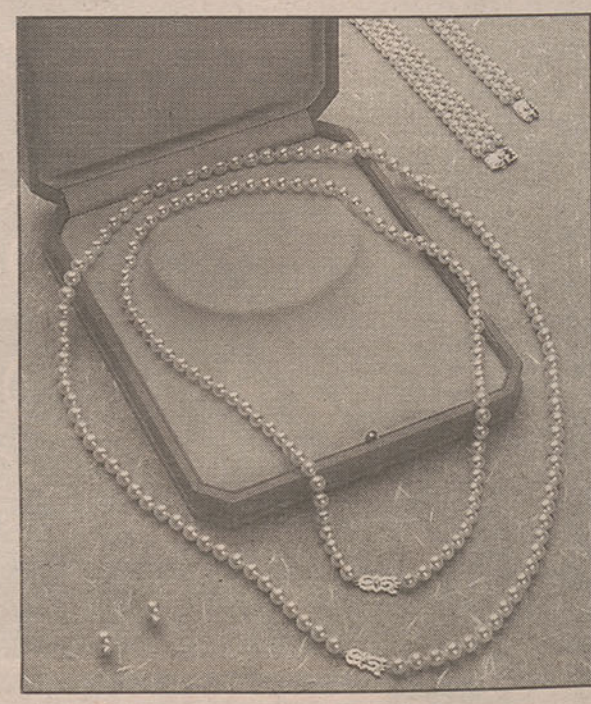

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glass, toys, and more for sale. Food concessions. Music by the WCC Jazz Combos. Hourly door prize drawings for $25 gift certificates. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Admission $2 (children under 10, free). 971–7424.*

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new, including Georgia O'Keeffe's photo album *O'Keeffe at Abiquir*, a well-illustrated little book entitled *Pussyfooting: Essential Dance Steps for Cats*, a mint-condition 1917 Jello recipe book, several Baedeker travel guides from 1905–1913, and more. A separate room with children's books in mint condition (limit of 3 children's books per family) includes everything from *Woody Guthrie's Big Grow Songs, The Magical School Bus on the Ocean Floor,* and *Goosebumps* to old favorites like *Why the Grinch Stole Christmas* and Calvin & Hobbes and Garfield comic books. Also, Christmas records. Proceeds to support library projects. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. Free admission. 994–2333.*

Annual Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. December 7 & 8. A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Offers a diverse range of functional and decorative ceramics by local artists, in high-fired stoneware, porcelain, and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., 201 Hill St. Free admission. 663–4970.*

"Santa Paws": Humane Society of Huron Valley. December 7, 8, & 14. A chance—probably your only chance—to have your pet's photo taken with Santa Claus. Dogs must be leashed, and other pets must be transported in a carrier; no dogs allowed on December 8. Proceeds to benefit the Humane Society. *10 a.m.–6 p.m., empty storefront next to Huron Pet Supply, Fountain Square Plaza, 2900 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti. $8 for one 3 1/4" x 4 1/4" matted photo or two wallet-sized photos, $15 for all three photos. Appointments required. 662–5585, ext. 103.*

★Monthly Meeting: Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. U-M nursing professor Connie Greene discusses **"MIchUHcan,"** an organization dedicated to creating a health care plan in Michigan. Also, a video of the Jewish Community Center Seniors on Stage performing **"Doctors Can Be Hazardous to Your Health,"** a satiric skit written by Gray Panthers member Lillian Rossinger. Gray Panthers is an intergenerational group dedicated to improving life for people of all ages. Refreshments. All invited. *10 a.m.–noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–7530.*

★14th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 6 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

★"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 1 Sunday. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

★"The Laser": U-M Physics Department "Saturday Morning Physics." December 7 & 14. A series of two multimedia talks by U-M physics professor Marc Nantel, who demonstrates how lasers work and explains how they can be used to do everything from transmitting human voices and producing X-rays to creating a photon torpedo. Part of a semester-long series of talks aimed at general audiences on cutting-edge research by U-M physicists. *10:30–11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison Bldg., 501 East University. Free. 764–4437.*

"Tle'ehoonaa'ei: The One Who Governs the Night"/"The Four Seasons": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 1 Sunday. 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("Tle'ehoonaa'ei"); 12:30 & 3:30 p.m. ("The Four Seasons").

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. Every Saturday. All invited to play disc golf at Hudson Mills Metropark's 18-hole disc golf course. Disc golf is a popular new sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $4 per player; free for spectators. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) 996–0212, 434–1615.*

★Shakuhachi Demonstration: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Michael Keith Gould demonstrates this Japanese flute and discusses East Asian culture and philosophy as it relates to music. *11 a.m., Concordia College Kreft Center for the Arts, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Free. 995–4625.*

Today's Brass Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House "Croissant Concert." A popular holiday tradition featuring this brass quintet made up of area professionals, who perform seasonal music, classics, and pop tunes, concluding with a sing-along to Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus. Croissants, coffee, and juice served. *11 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $9 & $12. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

★"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company. Every Saturday. Storyteller Pam Crisovan (aka "Mama Moon") leads tales, crafts, and other activities for kids ages 4–10. This month's theme, **"Great Melting Pot,"** examines different holiday traditions in the U.S. *11 a.m.–noon, Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★"Children's Hour": Borders Books and Music. December 7 & 14. Borders staff and guests read stories and lead activities for kids ages 4–10. Today's theme is **"The Harlem Renaissance."** Nora Martin and Dolores Anderson, members of The Links (see 5 Thursday) discuss James Weldon Johnson's song, "The Negro National Anthem." *11 a.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★"Polishing Petoskey Stones by Hand": Waterloo Natural History Association. All invited to learn how to enhance the natural beauty of these fossilized stones and to discover what they reveal about Michigan's geological history. Stones and polishing materials provided. *11 a.m., Gerald Eddy Geology Center, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take I-94 west to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Geology Center is on the left.) Free. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

Victorian Christmas Open House: Waterloo Area Farm Museum. December 7 & 8. This mid-19th-century pioneer homestead is decked out with Victorian-style greenery and decorations and a feather Christmas tree. Attractions include music played on an authentic melodeon, cooking demonstrations on an antique wood stove, hot cider and cookies, and a chance to explore the farm grounds and barn. Also, sale of old-fashioned gifts such as handmade toys and sleigh bells. Dress for snow and cold. *Noon–5 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Jackson. (Take I-94 west to exit 153 and follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) Admission $1 (families, $4). 769–2219, (517) 596–2254.*

Holiday Walk and Open House: The Courtyard Shops. Walk through the festively decorated mall and collect validations on a "bingo card" to earn a discount coupon. Also, Santa is on hand to visit with little ones and hand out candy canes. *Noon–4 p.m., The Courtyard Shops, 1655–1759 Plymouth Rd. Free admission. 663–8000.*

★5th Annual "Art Day": Washtenaw Council for the Arts. December 7 & 8. A celebration of the area's rich and varied visual arts community. Many Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti galleries host special exhibits this weekend, and a number of private studios are open to the public, including 14 studios in the Performance Network annex. Special events include tours and children's activities at the Malawi Tileworks studio, the annual Potters Guild sale (see listing above), the Children's Holiday Parade and the Kerrytown Artisan Market on Sunday, and live music and artists' demonstrations at the Atrium (301 N. Main, Ann Arbor) and at the Riverside Arts Center (76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti). *Noon–5 p.m., various locations. Free admission. Maps available at downtown galleries, or by calling 484–4882 or 995–7281.*

★"Holiday Origami": Borders Books and Music. Local origami expert Don Shall shows how to make holiday decorations using the an-

Orange Then Blue

Extending the Mingus tradition

Most jazz orchestras are named after their leader. Orange Then Blue, led by drummer Ed Shuller, is named after a song. The composition is "Orange was the Color of her Dress Then Blue Silk," a complex work with shifting moods and tempos composed by the late Charles Mingus.

The nod to Mingus is spiritual rather than historic. Orange Then Blue is a true extension of the Mingus tradition, with special reference to the passion with which the great bass player combined Ellington, bebop, and free jazz to move the music forward. This twelve-member outfit began as a collection of forward-looking young players from the Boston area. With time, most of them have moved to New York, and as their talents and careers have developed, it has become something of an all-star organization. The repertoire comes primarily from within the band and consists of originals and adaptations of traditional tunes from various cultures, as well as the odd arrangement of compositions by Albert Ayler or Charlie Parker.

Mingus was a great enemy of the cliché: he would sometimes shout at his sidemen on the stand or even stop the music when he felt they were merely coasting. This avoidance of the obvious is an element that Shuller's band has taken to heart. While many young jazz musicians recycle licks from 1950's and 1960's recordings, Orange Then Blue soloists strive to create more personal statements. Trumpeter Herb Robertson, saxophonists Chris Speed and Matt Darriau, and French horn player Tom Varner (all are also leaders of their own groups) are among the most accomplished instrumentalists in contemporary improvisational music. Their solo statements are carefully blended into the texture and mood of the composition, not mere exercises in chord patterns. The instrumentation of the band is different from the typical jazz big band and includes not only Varner's French horn but also Rufus Cappadocia's cello.

A reduced version of the orchestra, under the name Orange Then Light Blue, performed this summer at the Montreux/Detroit jazz festival, and their set was one of the highlights of the event. I was particularly impressed by Varner's virtuoso performance and by the strong, rugged, and yet lyrical tenor saxophone playing of Matt Darriau, who also provided some of the loveliest moments of the set on various wooden flutes. Both will be at the Performance Network on Wednesday, December 4, for the Ann Arbor debut of this marvelous group of improvising musicians.

—Piotr Michalowski

cient Japanese art of paper folding. *1 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

"Holiday Gift Workshops": Ann Arbor Art Center. December 7, 14, & 21. Kids ages 6–12 can make one of a variety of gifts, plus handmade gift wrapping and cards. Gift projects include picture frames, family portraits, bookmaking, and jewelry. *1–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. $12 (Art Center members, $10) plus $5 materials fee. Preregistration required. 994–8004.*

Open House: Kempf House Center for Local History. December 7, 8, 14, & 15. Guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, named for the family of German-American musicians who occupied it at the turn of the century. The house is decorated in Victorian fashion for the holidays by Gabriel Richard High School German class students. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Admission $1 (children 5 & under, free). 994–4898.*

★**"The Rise and Fall of Palestine: A Personal Account of the Intifada Years": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party.** New York University and Hunter College lecturer Norman Finkelstein is on hand to sign copies of his recently published book. Refreshments. *1–3 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Decorating a Tree for the Birds": Wild Birds Unlimited.** December 7 & 12. Wild Birds Unlimited owner Kurt Hagemeister discusses how to decorate yard trees with edible foods for birds and other wild animals. Refreshments. *2 p.m., Wild Birds Unlimited, 2204 S. Main at Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 665–7427.*

★**"Anarmophoses": Galerie Jacques.** Opening reception for an exhibit of paintings and drawings by French "outsider" artist Rene Strubel, whose works often use the passion and crucifixion of Christ as an emblem for all of human suffering. *2–6 p.m., Galerie Jacques, 616 Wesley. Free. 665–9889.*

"Red, White, and Blue": Ypsilanti Area Dancers/Salvation Army Advisory Board. December 7 & 8. This local company of children and adult dancers directed by Marjorie Randazzo and Sara Randazzo-Rodriguez performs an original ballet on patriotic themes. Also, "Rhythm in Motion," a jazz and tap dance piece performed to live music by Continuum Music and the Valley Drive Trio, and "Verdi Variations," a ballet set to music of Verdi. Also, Christmas carols by the award-winning **Ypsilanti Chamber Singers.** *2 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard, Ypsilanti. Tickets $8 (children 12 & under, $3) in advance at Dancers Boutique (Saline), Norton Durant Flowers & the Salvation Army (Ypsilanti), and First Position (Ann Arbor); and at the door. One free adult ticket with groups of 10 or more*

GO FIGURE!

ANN ARBOR TEACHERS SEND YOU THE FOLLOWING DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS AND MATH LESSONS

EQUITABLE: dealing fairly and equally with all concerned. (excerpted from Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 1975 edition)

2.7% x $106,848 = $2,885 (rounded)
(The Superintendent's annual salary increase)

4.41% x $77,665 = $3,425 (rounded)
(The Executive Director of Human Resource Service's annual salary increase)

1% x $55,485 = $555(rounded)
(The Board of Education's proposed annual salary increase for teachers with a Masters Degree and 10 - 30 years experience)

$2,885 = $3,425 = $555???
OR
2.7% = 4.4% = 1%???

Come on Board of Education members! You can do math better than that. Also, please define equitable for us.

What are other School Districts' salary increases for teachers this year?

Here are some samples, using the top step with a masters degree as the point of comparison.

District reporting	Expenditure per child in 94-95*	% increase in salary 96-97
Farmington	$8,067	2.0%
Kalamazoo	$6,719	2.0%+
Lansing	$7,003	2.0%+
Gr. Blanc	$5,687	2.8%
Petoskey	$5,145	2.8%
Gr. Rapids	$6,227	3.0%
State Average	$5,272	2.74%**
Ann Arbor	$7,724	1.0%????

+: These districts have additional funds added to this by a formula, but the results won't be known until later this year.
*The most recent data available from the Mich. Dept. Educ.
**: As reported by the Michigan Assoc. of School Boards.
????: The Board's last salary proposal.

Presented by the Ann Arbor Education Association, MEA-NEA, representing 1,100 professional educators who work for the Ann Arbor Public Schools

children. 482–8559, 747–9349.

"The Yeoman of the Guard": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 5 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Play Called Noah's Flood": EMU Theater of the Young. See 6 Friday. 2:30 p.m.

"A Nicaraguan Christmas": First Baptist Church/Northside Community Church/Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Musicians from these three local congregations join forces for a musical celebration of their sister church relationships with churches in three Nicaraguan cities: Nandasmo, Hebron, and Remeente. Also, a drawing for either a rocking chair or a wall hanging made by artisans in Nandasmo. Proceeds go to various educational, economic, and medical projects in the Nicaraguan cities. *3–5 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. $5 (children, $2) suggested donation. 663–9376, 662–6351, 665–4734.*

"Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad": U-M Women's Gymnastics. The U-M women's gymnastics team prepares for the 1996–1997 NCAA season with an intrasquad meet. *4 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

★**Holiday Concert.** Pianist Julianne Markavitch offers a recital of "joyful family fare and fine music." *Note:* Markavitch repeats the concert December 15 at Hammel's Music Recital Hall in Livonia. *4 p.m., University Lutheran Chapel, 1511 Washtenaw. Free. 741–0754.*

Family Chess Club: Adventures in Chess. Every Saturday. Chess players of all ages and levels of ability invited. Includes a weekly ladder tournament. Chess sets provided. *5–10 p.m., Adventures in Chess, 220 S. Main (new location below Elmo's Supershirts). $3 per week, or $49 annual membership. 665–0612.*

★**"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society.** Monthly festival of Japanese animated films and TV cartoons. Japanese, subtitles. *U-M campus admission policy:* No one under 18 admitted without an adult. *6–11 p.m., Modern Languages Bldg. Auditorium 3, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free. For more information, E-mail animania@umich.edu, or visit the Web site at http://www.umich.edu/~animania.*

★**"Holly Days": Dexter Chamber of Commerce.** The 2nd annual Light Parade, featuring cars and other vehicles decked out in Christmas lights, is followed by a community carol sing at Monument Park. Also, merchants hold special sales today and Santa makes a gala arrival. *6 p.m., downtown Dexter. Free. 426–0887, 426–4991.*

★**Drumming Circle.** All invited to bring drums, rattle, or other music-making objects for a few hours of free-form drumming, dancing, chanting, bliss, and ecstasy. *6 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co–op buildings). Free. 677–8211.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** December 7 & 14. A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, cellular phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset. *Sunset–1 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1 mile west of Hudson Mills Metropark). Free. 480–4514.*

"St. Joe's Holiday in Venice": 21st Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Benefit Ball. The sights and sounds of Venice reign at this year's festivities, which feature glittering decorations of crimson and gold. Hors d'oeuvres and predinner entertainment at the U-M Alumni Center, with music by a local madrigal chorus. Guests then move on to the Michigan League for a gourmet dinner prepared by award-winning chefs Gary Danko of San Francisco and Lance Velasquez of Georgia. The local **Liz Rowan String Quartet** moves from room to room, serenading the diners. After dinner, ballroom dancing to the 10-piece **Tim Hewitt Orchestra.** This annual fund-raiser is one of the largest and most successful in the country. This year's proceeds benefit the hospital's breast care services. *Note:* All ball decorations, including Christmas trees, wreaths, poinsettias, and table linens, are for sale (call for information). *7 p.m.–1 a.m., Michigan League. Tickets $750 & $1,000 per couple. For reservations, call 712–3192.*

19th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. See 6 Friday. 7 p.m.

★**"Burn This": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** See 5 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Christmas at Our Place, or, What I Did on My Christmas Vacation": Varsity Blues and Company. December 7 & 8. This Saline-area youth company performs a musical revue of seasonal songs, dances, and original skits. Includes a visit from **Santa** and guest appearance by the Huron High School barbershop chorus **Sha-Bop Shop.** *7:30 p.m., Saline High School Auditorium, Saline. Tickets $4 at the door. 429–2103.*

★**"30 Minutes of Holiday Cheer": The Ypsilanti High School Chamber Singers.** The acclaimed Ypsilanti High School Chamber Singers present their 1996–1997 season premiere concert. *7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Student Chapel (EMU campus), 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 483–9785.*

Square and Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Dancing to live music by David West and Donna Baird, with caller Erna-Lynne Bogue. All dances taught; beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Bring shoes with clean soles to dance in. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $6 (AACTMAD members, $5). 426–0261.*

★**George Rabasa** and **Jonis Agee: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Readings by these two friends and fiction writers. Rabasa, an award-winning writer from Minnesota, reads from his recently published first book *Glass Houses*, a collection of short stories about people striving for stability and safety whose lives fall prey to unexpected disruptions. Agee, a U-M creative writing professor whose fiction is known for what Marge Piercy calls a "clear and unsentimental eye," reads from her new work. Followed by a reception. Refreshments. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Contemporary Directions Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Rob Reynolds directs this student ensemble in new works by U-M composition faculty. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 763–4726.*

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. December 7 & 8. This annual performance of Handel's well-loved religious oratorio has been an Ann Arbor tradition since 1879. Thomas Sheets directs the 250-voice **UMS Choral Union** and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.** The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, include soprano **Janet Williams,** contralto **Malin Fritz,** tenor **William Watson,** and baritone **Kevin McMillan.** *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $8–$16 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Tom Paxton: The Ark. One of the first singer-songwriters to emerge from the 60s folk revival, Paxton is still as prolific and popular, as pertinent and impertinent, as ever. A very versatile songwriter, he has written hauntingly beautiful ballads like "Rambling Boy" and "The Last Thing on My Mind," rousing sing-alongs like "Wasn't That a Party," and scores of splendid social satires. He's also an excellent performer who's always been a favorite with local audiences. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 (tonight) & $5 (tomorrow) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Koko Taylor: EMU Performing Arts Series. Taylor is one of the acknowledged masters of the otherwise mostly all-male postwar Chicago blues tradition associated with Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf, and Willie Dixon. Her singing is both gorgeous and gritty, at once fierce, fiery, and luxuriously indolent. Her recordings of

Ann Arbor Ballet Theater's annual production of "The Nutcracker," the timeless Christmas fantasy ballet, is Dec. 12–14 at the Power Center.

"Wang Dang Doodle," "You Can Have My Husband, But Don't Mess with My Man," and "What Kind of Man Is This?" are blues classics. She's been an Ann Arbor favorite since her landmark performances at the Ann Arbor Blues & Jazz Festivals in the early 70s. Opening act is **Big Dave and the Ultrasonics,** a popular local band led by vocalist and guitarist Dave Steele that plays high-powered, brightly polished blues and blues-rock. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets $12–$18 (EMU students, seniors, & children under 12, $6–$9) in advance at the Quirk Auditorium Box Office and at the door. 487–1221.*

"11th Annual Raise the Roof": Performance Network Fund-Raiser. This popular annual event showcases several of Ann Arbor's most creative performing artists, many of whom devise new work especially for the occasion. The sheer abundance and variety of top-notch entertainment usually leaves audiences aesthetically inebriated. Emcees are **Peter Birkenhead,** the veteran Broadway actor who starred in the Network's world premiere production of "Goodnight, Irene" in September, and veteran local singer-songwriter and actress **Tracy Leigh Komarmy.** She also performs some of her songs, which range from thoughtful, sometimes unsettling, introspective ballads to elegant, punchy, and slyly humorous pop-rock tunes.

This year's lineup: **Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit,** a nationally acclaimed Detroit-based ensemble of young performers ages 12–19 founded by Ann Arbor theater veteran Rick Sperling, reprises the 15-minute digest of its recent productions that it recently presented at the 1996 World Festival of Children's Theater in Denmark. Mosaic is known for its dynamic contemporary adaptations of folktales and dramatic classics, including the recent "Crossing 8 Mile," a musical comedy updating of Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors." **Jeffrey Willets,** a golden-voiced local tenor, teams up with his sister, choreographer **Suzanne Willets-Brooks,** and veteran local dancer **Noonie Anderson** to reprise their hit multimedia production of "House of Life," Ralph Vaughan Williams's setting of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's lush, dream-like sonnet sequence. Choreographer **Kelly Borcherts** reprises her "Autumn Dances" hit "One Fell Swoop," a high-energy trio featuring Borcherts, Elaine Economou, and Carrie Trinka. Also, a brand-new piece from **Malcolm Tulip,** the transplanted Englishman whose wonderfully inventive, bracingly idiosyncratic expressionist plays have made him one of Ann Arbor's most popular and critically acclaimed theater stars, and original songs by **Whitley Setrakian,** a multitalented local performance artist, who writes richly imaginative country-folk originals that are often spiked with her offbeat sense of humor. Other performers to be announced. Also, sponsors and patrons are invited to a buffet reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Michigan Theater lobby. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $20 (general admission) and $35 & $50 (sponsors & patrons) in advance at the Performance Network, Schoolkids' Records, and PJ's Used Records & CDs; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"The Yeoman of the Guard": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 5 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Sherlock Holmes": U-M Theater Department. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Eddie Clark: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 5 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. "Animania." See Events listing above. FREE. MLB 3; 6–11 p.m. **CG. "Harvey"** (Henry Koster, 1950). Delightful adaptation of Mary Chase's stage comedy about a mild-mannered drunk who insists his best friend is a six-foot-tall rabbit. James Stewart. Nat. Sci., 7 p.m. **"It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). 'Tis the season once again for this classic about a man who gets a second chance at life on Christmas Eve. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. Nat. Sci., 9 p.m.

8 SUNDAY

Monthly Show: Huron Gun Collectors. See 7 Saturday. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

★**"Winter Leaves": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC's informative and entertaining naturalist Matt Heumann leads a walk to point out the difference between "evergreen" and "winter green" tree leaves. *10 a.m., Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd. (15 miles west of US-23). Free. 971–6337.*

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. See 1 Sunday. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Annual Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. See 7 Saturday. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

"Santa Paws": Humane Society of Huron Valley. See 7 Saturday. No dogs allowed today. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Holiday Open House: Nielsen's Flowers. See 7 Saturday. 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

★**"Make Your Own Backyard Ice Rink": Ann Arbor Parks Department.** City parks staffers shows how to build and maintain a backyard ice rink. "How to" literature available. *10:30 a.m., Park Service Hdqtrs., 415 W. Washington. Free. 994–2768.*

★**Monthly Gathering: Second Sunday Schmoozers.** All Jewish singles invited to meet new friends over brunch. *10:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Seva restaurant, 314 E. Liberty. Free (pay for your own food). 973–8699.*

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** See 1 Sunday. Today's program to be announced. 10:30 a.m.

★**Open House: The Distinctive Touch.** A chance to view the collection of fine fossils, crystals, and shells at this gallery, normally open by appointment only. *11 a.m.–6 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd.). Free. 994–3048.*

★**14th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 6 Friday. Also, today: a **Christmas concert** (3–4 p.m.) with performances by the **Pioneer High School Choraliers,** Celtic harpist **Beverly Black,** the duo of dulcimer player **Terri Moore** and guitarist **Mike Down,** the organ-piano duo of **Karen Madsen and Marilyn Roubidoux,** oboist **Amy Brough,** vocalist **Elizabeth Hedquist,** vocalist **Cassandra Cooper** with backup vocalists **Linda Downie and Mary Burnett,** and others to be announced. 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

★**8th Annual Children's Holiday Parade: Main Street Area Association.** All kids are invited to join a downtown street parade featuring assorted costumed animal characters, Arabian horses, city fire engines, AATA and public school buses, and area high school marching bands. The parade is led by Mayor Sheldon and

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Santa Claus. Participating children are encouraged to wear costumes, too, and all kids are given kazoos for a kiddie kazoo band. Parents are welcome to bring kids in strollers or accompany those who need escorts, and nursery schools and Scout and Brownie troops can march together with an identifying banner. The parade route runs from the Federal Building down Liberty to Fourth Ave. to Washington to Main to the Detroit Edison parking lot at William. Afterward, free hot chocolate and cookies are available at the Real Seafood Company. *11:30 a.m. (assemble), 12:30 p.m. (parade), Federal Bldg., E. Liberty at S. Fourth Ave. Free. 668–7112.*

★5th Annual "Art Day": Washtenaw Council for the Arts. See 7 Saturday. Noon–5 p.m.

★Victorian Christmas Open House: Waterloo Area Farm Museum. See 7 Saturday. Noon–5 p.m.

★Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program. See 1 Sunday. 12:30–3:30 p.m.

"Wonderful Winter Decorations": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). Naturalist Michelle Gage leads a walk to gather dormant vines and wildflowers to use to make some winter art. *1–2:30 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $4 (families, $15). Preregistration required. 662–7802.*

Kids' Open Mike: Oz's Music. Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. *1 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Minimum donation: 25¢. Call ahead to reserve a space. 662–8283.*

★"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 1 Sunday. 1 p.m.

★"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio. See 1 Sunday. 1 p.m.

Open House: Kempf House Center for Local History. See 7 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

"Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 1 Sunday. 1–5 p.m.

★"Upstairs at Borders": Borders Books and Music. See 1 Sunday. Today: Victorian Christmas songs by singer-guitarist **Michael Bryce.** 1 p.m.

"Tle'ehoonaa'ei: The One Who Governs the Night"/"The Four Seasons": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 1 Sunday. 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("Tle'ehoonaa'ei"); 3:30 p.m. ("The Four Seasons").

Alternative Holiday Fair: First Baptist Church/Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. Offers handmade arts and crafts from Third World countries, a chance to sponsor live farm animals (on hand and available for petting) to go to needy farms, and other items to benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. *Note:* ICPJ sponsors a carpool today (4 p.m.) to Detroit to hear a talk by **Jennifer Harbury,** the American wife of a murdered Guatemalan resistance leader. *2–6 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663–1870.*

★Monthly Meeting: Friends of Four-Hand Piano. Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for four-hand and two-piano music. Listeners welcome. *2 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 663–3942, 665–2811.*

★Sunday Tour: U-M Museum of Art. See 1 Sunday. Today: **"Venice, Traditions Transformed."** 2 p.m.

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. See 7 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Yeoman of the Guard": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Christmas at Our Place, or, What I Did on My Christmas Vacation": Varsity Blues and Company. See 7 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Sherlock Holmes": U-M Theater Department. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Red, White, and Blue": Ypsilanti Area Dancers/Salvation Army Advisory Board. See 7 Saturday. 2 & 4:30 p.m.

★Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall. See 5 Thursday. Today, **Gideon Quilp and Emily Peerybingle** present a Cockney street performer–style show of stories, songs, and silliness. 2:30 p.m.

★"Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered": Clare Spitler Works of Art. Opening reception for the gallery's annual "theme" show, featuring works in various media by some 35 artists. *3–6 p.m., Clare Spitler Works of Art, 2007 Pauline Ct. Free. 662–8914.*

"A Toast to Vienna": Arthur Walter Presents #9. Ann Arbor Silent Film Society founder Art Stephan presents the 9th installment of his series of 16mm sound film programs. The feature film is **"A Toast to Vienna,"** a 1967 Young People's Concert in which Leonard Bernstein conducts the New York Philharmonic in performances of music by Mozart, Johann Strauss, and Mahler. Also, a condensed version of **"The Great Waltz"** (Julien Duvivier, 1938), an Oscar-winning biography of Johann Strauss, and several film shorts about Vienna and its culture. *3 p.m., Sheraton Inn amphitheater, 3200 Boardwalk (off Eisenhower east of S. State). $3.50. 677–1359, 996–0600.*

★Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. A passionate, spirited music that derives from congregational church singing, sacred harp music is sung in 4-part harmonies designed to accommodate voices of every type, quality, and range. The term "shape note" comes from the notational method, which uses geometric shapes (rather than conventional notes) to make the music easier to read. Songbooks are available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *3–4 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 747–9644, 761–1451.*

★Holiday Pops Concert: Ann Arbor Civic Chorus (Ann Arbor Public Schools Recreation and Education Department). Rebecca Vlisides directs this popular local chorus in a family concert of pop tunes, including music from the Broadway shows "Evita" and "Les Miserables." Pianist is Joyce Reese. This popular annual event usually packs the house; arrive early to be sure of getting a seat. *Note:* The choir gives an abbreviated concert at the U-M Hospital next week (see 15 Sunday). *3 p.m., Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington. Free. 994–2300, ext. 228.*

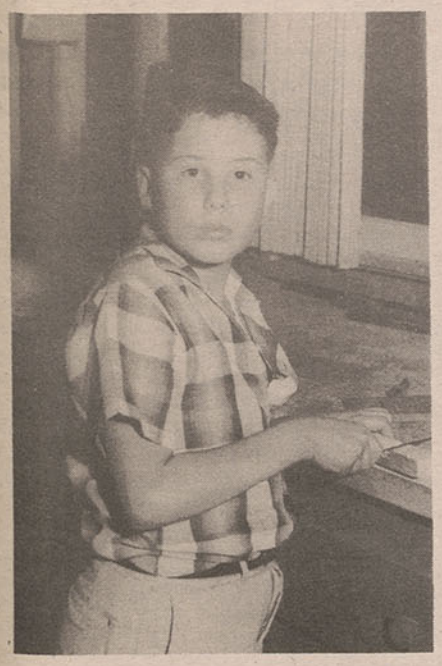
★36th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: EMU Music Department. Measure for Measure, a local men's chorus, joins the EMU University Choir, Chamber Choir, and Women's Glee Club to present the Christmas story through a program of alternating text and song adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Leonard Riccinto and Ernest Brandon conduct. *3 & 7 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★Michigan Chamber Players: U-M School of Music. Some of the music school's top faculty come together to perform Liszt's "Reminiscences de Don Juan," Brahms's Piano Trio No. 3 in C minor, and Nielsen's Wind Quintet. Performers are pianists Anton Nel and Louis Nagel, flutist Leone Buyse, oboist Harry Sargous, clarinetist Fred Ormand, horn player Corbin Wagner, bassoonist Richard Beene, violinist Paul Kantor, and cellist Anthony Elliott. *4 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

★Steve Reich's "Drumming": Percussion Ensemble (U-M School of Music). This top-notch music-student ensemble performs minimalist composer Steve Reich's 85-minute work for tuned bongos, marimbas, glockenspiels, piccolo, and singers, which fuses African-based rhythms with minimalist concepts. For this concert, the group was coached by Nexus drummer and Steve Reich Ensemble member Russell Hartenberger. The Percussion Ensemble has performed to acclaim around the world and has released 3 CD's. The group's concerts are exciting, energetic, and generally a lot of fun. *4 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

★Chamber Music Concert: U-M Residential College. Maria Kardas Barna directs RC students in a program of chamber duets, trios, quartets, quintets, and ensemble works. *4 p.m.,*

autobiography



James Ellroy
The language of crime

The ten-year-old boy in the above photograph had been told minutes before this picture was taken that his mother was murdered. He was placed in this pose by a photographer from a small town paper. It was 1958 in Southern California, one of the poor little towns that would soon join the sprawl we know as Greater Los Angeles. In the years after this photograph, the boy would become a juvenile delinquent, a petty thief, a drug addict, and an alcoholic. He would be in and out of the Los Angeles County Jail. He would spend years living on the street and would, quite literally, go mad. Through his long descent he would remain obsessed with crime, particularly crimes against women, and he would become his own kind of student: a student of the language of crime.

More than two decades later he would emerge from his particular hell as novelist James Ellroy. He would compulsively write a dozen books in as many years, brooding books with hard edges that would gain him first a cult following, then gradual recognition as a master—perhaps the Grand Master—of crime fiction. And he would come to the point where he was able to write *My Dark Places*.

Though we seem to live in an age of memoirs (there are thousands of them out there, published, soon to be published, or just begun), Ellroy's memoir stands out, in part because of its subject matter, but mostly because of the manner of its telling. In *My Dark Places* he reconstructs his mother's murder, rebuilds his childhood, recounts his years of self-destructive obsessiveness, and sets out on a search, thirty years late, for his mother's murderer. Whether or not he finds the murderer might be important to him, but it is almost insignificant to the powerful effect of the book.

In it he writes:

> I possessed a self-preserving streak at the height of my self-destruction. My mother gave me the gift and curse of obsession. It began as curiosity in lieu of childhood grief. It flourished as a quest for dark knowledge and mutated into a horrible thirst for sexual and mental stimulation. Obsessive drives almost killed me. A rage to turn my obsessions into something good and useful saved me. I outlived the curse. The gift assumed its final form in language.

Although this passage is uncharacteristically abstract, it has something of Ellroy's style in it. He writes the short powerful sentences with strong verbs, sentences without adjective, adverb, or subordination, the kind we have come to expect from our good crime writers. But there is an edge of introspection to these sentences, a willingness to psychologize that characterizes Ellroy and makes him different, often more ambitious.

Ellroy's crime fiction has been compared to the classics of the genre by Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler. Although the books bear those comparisons, Ellroy's vision is much darker. Primarily because of the horrific experiences he recounts in *My Dark Places*, he finds few redeeming characteristics in our species, or at least not in the social life we have constructed. It is not easy stuff to read. But Ellroy knows a part of the world around us better than most, and he tells it in a way that cannot be ignored and that makes him one of our necessary writers.

Ellroy reads from *My Dark Places* at Shaman Drum Bookshop on Wednesday, December 4.

—Keith Taylor

Residential College auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763–0176.

19th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. See 6 Friday. 4 p.m.

★Ann Arbor–Motown Hash House Harriers. See 1 Sunday. 4 p.m.

6th Annual Jingle Bell Run for Arthritis: Max & Erma's/Sears/*Ann Arbor News*. People of all ages and fitness levels are welcome to join this festive, lighthearted 5-km run or walk to raise funds for arthritis research. Includes an "Elf Mile" run or walk for kids 13 and under. The race is held this year at Domino's Farms, where participants are encouraged to enjoy the Christmas lights display. All entrants receive a pair of jingle bells for their shoes. Prizes to the top individual runners, walkers, and team finishers, as well as to those who raise $125 or more in pledges before the race. Participants are encouraged to dress up as elves, reindeer, Santas, snowmen, or what have you and enter a costume contest. *4 p.m. (registration), 4:30 p.m. (run), Domino's Farms Lobby E parking lot, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Registration: $23 (by mail before December 2), $24 (walk-ins, December 6 & 7), or $25 (day of race). Elf Mile: $2. Teams of*

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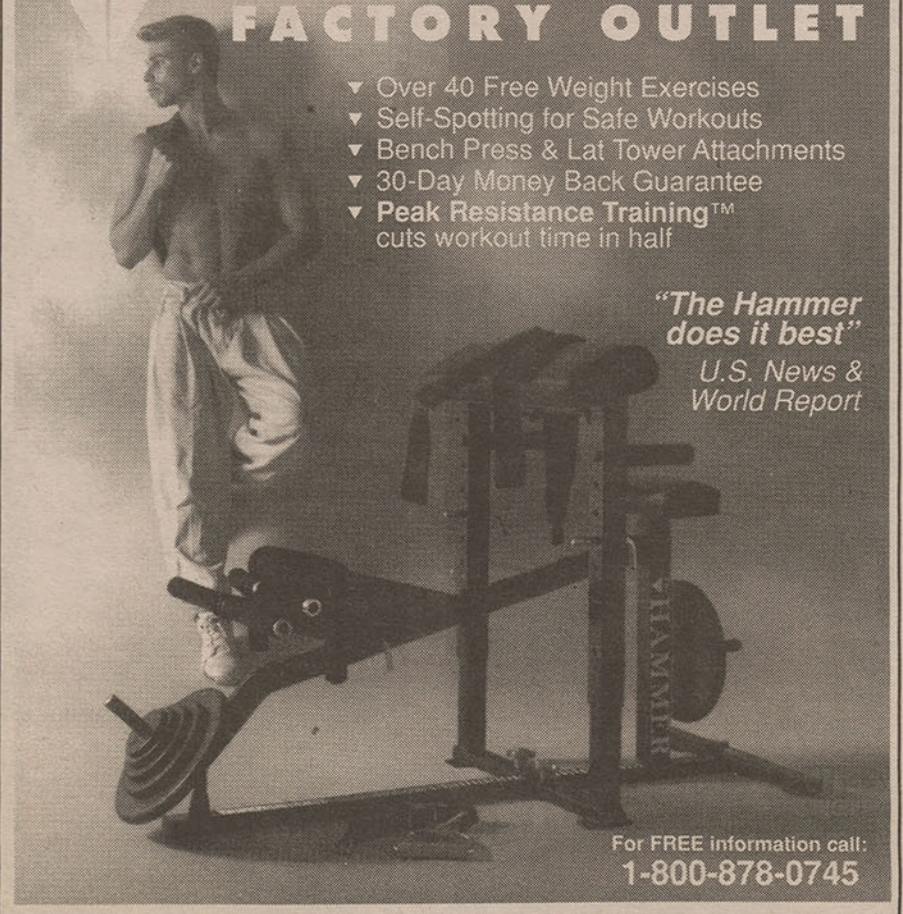

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"Red, White, and Blue": Ypsilanti Area Dancers/Salvation Army Advisory Board. See 7 Saturday. 2 & 4:30 p.m.

★**"Booked for Murder": Little Professor Book Company.** All invited to discuss a murder mystery to be announced. *5 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. For information, call Margaret Yang at 769–4879.*

★**Social Bridge.** December 8 & 22. All invited to play bridge. No partner necessary. *6–10 p.m., Graham's Steak House, Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 610 Hilton Blvd. (off S. State, just south of Briarwood). Free.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Amnesty International Ann Arbor Community Group.** All invited to join this new local chapter of Amnesty International, a group that works on behalf of prisoners of conscience around the world. This month's agenda to be announced. *7–8 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 973–7004.*

★**Planning and Strategy Meeting: Huron Valley Greens.** December 8 & 15. All invited to plan future activities. The Greens are a political organization working to integrate the issues of ecologically sound living, grassroots democracy, justice, and nonviolent action. All invited. *7–9 p.m., Michigan League, room 6. Free. 663–3555.*

Weekly Meeting: U-M Ballroom Dance Club. December 8 & 15. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. *Note:* the club also holds its fall dance party on December 1 (see listing). *7–8 p.m. (beginning bolero lessons), 8–9:30 p.m. (general dancing), Michigan Union Ballroom. $2. 763–6984.*

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. See 1 Sunday. 7–9:30 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"Carols by Candlelight": University Reformed Church.** The URC choir and brass quartet leads a sing-along of traditional Advent and Christmas carols. *7:30–8:30 p.m., University Reformed Church, 1001 E. Huron. (Parking available in the church parking lot on Ann St. next to Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches.) Free. 662–3153.*

Israeli Dancing: Hillel. Tom Starks leads 45 minutes of instruction for beginners, followed by open dancing. *8–10 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill St. $2.50. 769–0500.*

★**Brass Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** U-M music professor Fritz Kaenzig directs a student brass quintet in works by Tomasi, Husa, Gabrieli, Copland, and Grieg. *8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

Martin Sexton: The Ark. A 1994 National Academy of Songwriters "Artist of the Year," this widely acclaimed young singer-songwriter from Boston is known for bold, thoughtful original songs that blend elements of early jazz, blues, and ragtime with the mannerisms of 70s black pop, and for dynamic vocals that range from falsetto crooning to muted trumpet sounds. "One person I am most excited about is this guy Martin Sexton," says John Gorka. "He is truly a great singer, and it is only a matter of time before you hear the news." Opening act is **Kelly Joe Phelps,** a talented blues singer-guitarist from the Pacific Northwest who sings in a rich, husky voice and plays slide guitar on his lap. His repertoire includes folk blues by the likes of Mississippi Fred McDowell, along with several strong originals. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 (members, students, & seniors, $9) at the door only. 761–1451.*

FILMS

MTF. "A Muppet Christmas Carol" (Brian Henson, 1992). Mich. 5 p.m. **"Microcosmos"** (Claude Nurisdany & Marie Perennou, 1996). See 1 Sunday. Mich., 6:50 p.m. **"Trees Lounge"** (Steve Buscemi, 1996). December 8–14. The director stars as the downtrodden hero in this understated film about life in a joyless working-class Long Island suburb. Mich., 8:40 p.m.

9 MONDAY

Heart Health Screening: Washtenaw County Health Services Group. December 9 & 17 (different locations). A chance to have your blood pressure and cholesterol tested, with individual consultation on the results and information on how to reduce the risk of heart disease. *Note:* free mammograms, pap tests, pelvic and breast exams are available to women over 40 (call 484–7220 for details). *9:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m., Washtenaw County Human Services Bldg., Adult Health Clinic, 555 Towner, Ypsilanti. Cost to be announced. 484–7200.*

★**14th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 6 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

★**Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** See 2 Monday. 10:30 a.m.–noon.

★**"December Movies": Ann Arbor District Library.** December 9 & 16 (different programs). A series of 30-minute film programs for preschoolers. Today: three animated shorts adapted from children's stories, Margret & H. A. Ray's **"Curious George"** (the irrepressible monkey is whisked off on a series of escapades by a man in a yellow hat), Syd Hoff's **"Danny and the Dinosaur"** (a boy spends the day with a dinosaur he meets in a museum), and Crockett Johnson's **"Harold's Fairy Tale"** (a boy enters an enchanted world he imagines). Recommended for preschoolers. *11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–2345.*

Weekly Luncheon Series: M Club of Ann Arbor. See 2 Monday. 11:30 a.m.

★**Women's Book Group: Guild House.** December 9 & 23. All women invited to discuss a book on women's issues or by a woman writer to be announced. *Noon–1 p.m. Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 662–5189.*

★**"The Lost Gospel of the Earth: A Call for Renewing Nature, Spirit, and Politics": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party.** California state senator **Tom Hayden,** the U-M grad who first came to fame as an antiwar activist in the 60s, is on hand to sign copies of his recently published book, a call to reclaim the ecological wisdom of Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, and Native American traditions. Refreshments. *4–6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Repertory Works": U-M Dance Company.** U-M dance students preview works by U-M dance faculty choreographers to be performed at the Dance Company's annual concert in February. *4 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 763–5460.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**"Natural Healing with Nutrition and Herbs with Cindy Klement."** See 2 Monday. This week: **"Nutritional Herbology and Herbal Combinations."** 6:30–7:30 p.m.

★**Biweekly Meeting: Working Writers Group.** December 9 & 23. Newcomers are welcome to join this group that provides support and critiques for writers interested in publishing their poetry, fiction, or nonfiction. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., 2910 Marshall. Free. For information, call Dale at 973–0776 or Sylvan at (810) 471–0188.*

★**Monthly Meeting: International Workers of the World.** All invited to learn about the activities of this radical, uncompromising labor union better known as the Wobblies. *7:30 p.m., IWW General Headquarters, 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Free. 483–3548.*

★**"Show-and-Tell Christmas Party": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table.** All invited to join this group that meets monthly to discuss the Civil War and works for the preservation of historic battlegrounds. Tonight: members show off favorite Civil War relics and share their stories. *7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 930–0617, 973–6273, or 973–1047.*

"From Papyri to King James," the U-M Special Collections Library's popular annual exhibit of rare and ancient Biblical manuscripts, runs Dec. 4–Feb. 1. An opening reception is held Sun., Dec. 15, at the library.

★**"Chiropractic and Its Influence on Health": Network Chiropractic Center.** Talk by local chiropractor Rob Koliner. *8 p.m., Network Chiropractic Center, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 761–5908.*

★**Writers Series: Guild House.** Readings by **Laura Anderson,** a Community High School student who writes complex contemplative poems about her life experiences, and **Heather Bottorff,** a Hamtramck poet known for her fresh, subtle poems about urban upheaval, race, and children. *8:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 677–6839, 662–5189.*

★**"Monday Nite OUT": U-M Lesbian Gay Bisexual Programs Office.** See 2 Monday. 9–11 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Trees Lounge" (Steve Buscemi, 1996). See 8 Sunday. Mich., 7:30 p.m.

10 TUESDAY

★**"Natural Healing with Nutrition and Herbs with Cindy Klement."** See 2 Monday. This week: **"Nutritional Herbology and Herbal Combinations."** 9:30–10:30 a.m.

★**Morning Coffee: Newcomers Club of Ann Arbor.** Informal; children welcome. Coterie is open to all women who have moved or returned to the Ann Arbor–Ypsilanti area. *10 a.m.–noon, location to be announced. Free. 669–8117, 668–7614.*

★**"The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children": Domestic Violence Project/SAFE House.** Speakers to be announced discuss domestic violence and how to prevent it. All invited to bring a bag lunch. *Noon–2 p.m., SAFE House, 4100 Clark Rd. Free. 973–0242, ext. 202.*

★**"Fishgut and Other Wonder Weapons": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Brown Bag Lecture.** U-M Chinese literature professor emeritus James Crump discusses Fishgut (a proper name like Excalibur) and other legendary swords in Chinese literature. Bring a bag lunch; Chinese lunch (around $3) available. *Noon–1 p.m., Lane Hall Commons, 204 S. State. Free. 764–6308.*

★**"Images of Feeling and Form in Social Life": U-M Institute for the Humanities Brown Bag Lecture.** Talk by U-M psychology professor Lance Sandelands. Bring a bag lunch. *Noon, 1524 Rackham. Free. 936–3518.*

★**"The Writer's Craft": Ann Arbor District Library "Booked for Lunch."** Talk by **Loren Estleman,** an award-winning writer of mysteries and Westerns from Whitmore Lake. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea provided. Taped for repeat broadcasts on cable channel 8. *12:10–1 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2342.*

★**"New Horizons: The Evolution of Arthritis Diagnosis and Treatment": Arthritis Foundation.** Talk by U-M rheumatologist Tim Laing. Question and answer session follows. *1–3 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Senior Health Bldg. cafeteria, 5361 McAuley Dr. Free, but preregistration required. 572–3224.*

★**Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** December 10 & 14. Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include a **"Small Gift Workshop."** Participants make two small gifts (with wrappings) from recycled materials. *1–4 p.m., Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994–2807.*

★**"Charred Lullabies: Chapters in an Anthropology of Violence": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party.** U-M anthropology professor Val Daniel is on hand to sign copies of his recently published book about civil violence in 1983 in his homeland of Sri Lanka. Refreshments. *4–6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** See 3 Tuesday. This week's topic: **"Nighttime Stories."** 4–4:30 p.m.

Gift Basket Sale and Silent Auction: Lawton School. Sale of assorted "theme" gift baskets filled with goodies ranging from Michigan wear to books, videos, Beanie Babies, Christmas ornaments, jewelry, gardening items, and gift certificates. Also, a silent auction (7–8:30 p.m.) of goods and services including a U-M Golf Course outing, Ann Arbor Climbing Gym membership, a set of golf clubs, autographed sports balls, passes to the Ann Arbor Ice Cube skating rink, and much more. *5–7 p.m. (viewing), 7–9 p.m. (sale), Lawton School, 2250 S. Seventh Ave. Free admission. 995–1946.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

"Bread Tasting and Lecture": Zingerman's Bakehouse. Zingerman's Bakehouse owner Frank Carollo talks about bread making and compares different local brands of bread (with taste samples). Also, participants knead, shape, bake, and take home a loaf of Zingerman's Italian bread. Proceeds donated to Food Gatherers, a local organization that collects excess fresh food from restaurants and markets to distribute to local shelters and other organizations with food programs. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Bakehouse, 3711 Plaza Dr. $5. Reservations required. 761–2095.*

"The Way of the Heart." December 10 (7 p.m.) & 14 (2 p.m.). Monthly showing of this introductory video on the life of **Adi Da,** the Western-born adept formerly known as Da Free John. Followed by discussion with local resident Barbara Sanicki. *7 p.m., 1513 Jones Dr., Apt. 11. Donation. 761–4710.*

★**New Member Orientation: Parents Without Partners.** December 10 & 22. All divorced, widowed, separated, and never-married parents are invited to learn about the activities of this local PWP chapter. *7 p.m. (today) & 2 p.m. (December 22), locations to be announced. Free. 662–4139, 971–0082.*

★**"Origami Fun!": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local origami expert Don Shall leads one of his popular family-oriented workshops introducing the ancient, elegant Japanese art of paper folding. Kids under 5 must be accompanied by an adult to assist them. Supplies provided. *7–8 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–2345.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Magicians Club.** All amateur and professional magicians invited to discuss and practice principles of illusion. Beginners welcome. *7 p.m., location to be announced. Free to first-time visitors ($10 annual dues). For information, call Jeff Boyer at (313) 532–5333.*

★**Biweekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Area Knitters Club.** Knitters of all levels of experience

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The natural states of zest and joy can be blocked or inhibited. Fear or worry can interfere. Unconscious feelings, beliefs, ideas and fears can be operating without our even knowing it. We may experience increased or decreased sleep, appetite or sexual desire, tearfulness, hopelessness, irritability, or have suicidal thoughts. Conflicts with significant others or at work may appear to be external when in fact they are caused by internal conflicts. Unconscious conflicts and/or buried emotional traumas may be keeping us away from others or compulsively driving us toward others in unproductive ways. Sometimes all that may be apparent is that zest is lacking, and we have little joy for life.

The absence of zest and joy is not natural but we may have wrongly grown to believe that not having them is normal. Usually the interferences of zest and joy are partial and thus we are living at a limited capacity. Most often the interferences can be removed, zest can return, and life can be enjoyed fully.

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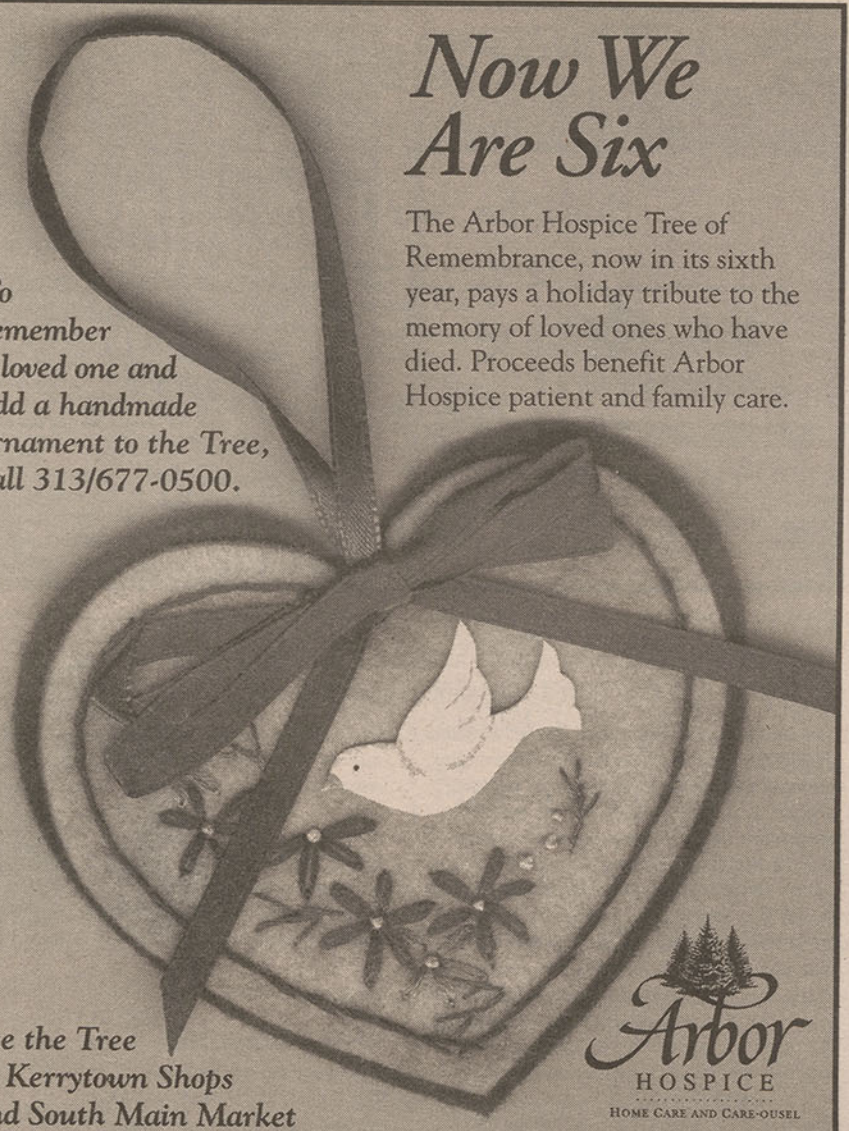

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gallery review

Images d'Épinal

A fine, splashy spectacle

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the rise of the printing press and the mass production of cheap paper made engravings and prints one of the most popular and affordable ways for Europeans to amuse themselves, instruct their children, and decorate their homes. The industry was dominated by the print shops of Épinal, a small village in the mountainous region of Vosges, France. In fact, Épinal prints were so abundant that in the last century they made their way across the ocean to Canada and the United States.

A delightful exhibit designed by the Musée du Québec now gathers together 170 images showing the scope of Épinal's influence, from playing cards to historical prints to children's toys. The U-M Museum of Art has given over its entire second-floor West Gallery to the images from Épinal, and a fine, splashy spectacle it is. The first thing visitors encounter at the entrance is a huge, freestanding enlargement of a print showing children gathered around a puppet stage. Everything about the exhibit, which runs through January 5, is designed to convey the popular impact of these images, which were as familiar in their day to Europeans as MTV and Dr. Seuss are to Americans today. Life-size toy soldiers stand sentry here and there throughout the room. There is a giant game board big enough to walk on and a puppet theater with movable puppets and scenery. The whole place has the feel of a gigantic playroom, and the UMMA capitalizes on this with "The Giant French Magical Fantasy Toy Box Adventure," a day of children's games and activities on December 15.

Still, "Images d'Épinal" is less likely to hold the interest of young children than of their older siblings and parents. Adults will appreciate the exquisite detail of the prints and the historic curiosities, like the paper clock faces for those who could not afford enameled ones. The show's many interactive exhibits include a loose-leaf binder with pages showing the stages of the print color process, headphones to listen to French folk songs while looking at the pictures they inspired, and a TV screen that shows continuous videos. The videos are narrated in French, unfortunately, so American visitors may have trouble with them—although the film showing familiar fairy tales illustrated through a series of cartoon panels (a precursor to the modern comic strip) is pretty easy to follow.

It's interesting to note that the term "images d'Épinal" has taken on a derogatory meaning in French, suggesting a naive, rosy-colored view of the world. Since the purpose of many Épinal prints was moral or religious instruction or political propaganda, that assessment is understandable. But there's nothing simple about the craftsmanship of these prints—amazing, given their throwaway nature. Literally millions of prints were produced in Épinal in the nineteenth century. Their colors brightened homes and fed the imaginations of generations of children, rich and poor. And what's so bad about that?

—Jennifer Dix

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library. *Italy: Printings and Drawings by Alice Crawford* (December 1–31). *Amnesty International Exhibit* (December 1–31). *Nutcrackers!* (December 1–31). 994–2333.

Berman Gallery and Lighting Studio. *Masked Revelations* (December 13–January 10). See 13 Friday. 741–0571.

Concordia College. *Reflections of Faith VI* (December 3–26). See 3 Tuesday. 995–7300.

Galerie Jacques. *Anarmophoses* (December 6–January 31). See 6 Friday. 665–9889.

Clare Spitler Works of Art. *Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered: The Annual "Theme" Show* (December 8–January 28). See 8 Sunday. 662–8914.

U-M Rackham Galleries. *Figurative Works by U-M Faculty* (through January 10). *Mike Hannum: Photographic Composites and Drawings* (through December 23). See "Celebration of Art" listing on 13 Friday. 998–6270.

U-M Special Collections Library. *From Papyri to King James: The Transmission of the English Bible* (December 4–February 1). See 15 Sunday. 764–9377.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 1996–1997 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide.

are invited to join this group that meets biweekly to knit together and share techniques and ideas. *7–9 p.m., Brookhaven Manor Retirement Community, 401 Oakbrook Dr. Free. 971–0013.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Washtenaw County Association for Infant Mental Health.** Local clinical psychologist Bill Schafer discusses **"Why Are Babies So Young?"** All invited. This group is an interdisciplinary organization of people interested in supporting families with young children. *7:30 p.m., Dr. John Gall's office, Liberty Medical Complex, 3200 W. Liberty (just east of Wagner Rd.). Free. 668–6290.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Amnesty International Ann Arbor Group 61.** All invited to join this group that works on behalf of prisoners of conscience around the world. This month's agenda to be announced. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Union Welker Room. Free. 668–0660.*

★**Monthly Meeting: WAUG.** This month's discussion topic: **"Multiplayer Games and Graphic Demo Software."** All invited to bring in their unwanted hardware and software to sell or trade. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Colonial Lanes meeting room, 1950 South Industrial. Free. 971–8576.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Don Theyken, Sandy Vielmo, and Erna-Lynne Bogue teach historical and traditional dances from England, with live music. All dances taught; new dancers welcome. No partner necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and casual attire. *7:30–10 p.m., Chapel Hill Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (north of Plymouth Rd.). $4 donation. 663–0744, 426–0261.*

★**Folk Dancing: U-M Folk Dance Club.** See 4 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Speed Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club.** See 3 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

Community Education Series: Dawn Farm. See 3 Tuesday. Tonight, Dawn Farm staff and residents lead a panel discussion on **"Treatment and Recovery."** 7:30 p.m.

★**Hanukkah Concert: Chavrim B'Shirim.** This local mixed chorus directed by Marilyn Krimm presents a program of Hanukkah songs. *7:30 p.m., Brookhaven Manor, 401 Oakbrook. Free. Space limited; reservations required. For reservations, call Sylvia at 747–8800.*

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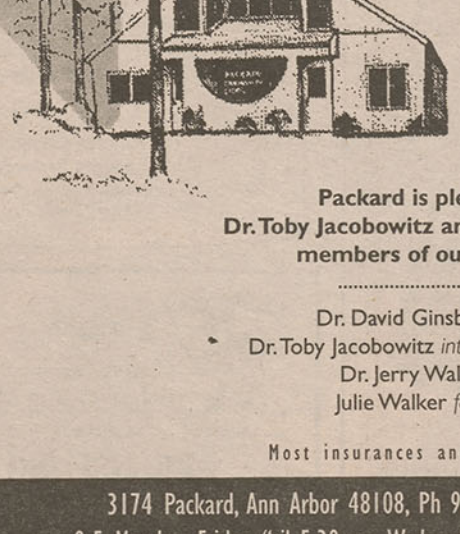

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★**University Symphony and Philharmonia Orchestras: U-M School of Music.** Ken Kiesler and Pier Calabria direct these two U-M student orchestras in music by Faure, Ravel, Humperdinck, and Berlioz. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 763–4726.*

★**EMU Collegium Concert: EMU Music Department.** Anthony Iannaccone directs EMU music faculty and students in a varied program that includes Mozart's Vespers for Chorus, Solo Quartet, and Chamber Orchestra; Handel's Concerto Grosso in A minor for Strings and Continuo; Telemann's Suite in A minor for Flute, Strings, and Continuo. Also, a Handel cantata. *8 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. See 3 Tuesday. 8:30–11:30 p.m.

★**"Trivia Night": Heidelberg Restaurant.** See 3 Tuesday. 9–11 p.m.

FILMS

CG SNEAK PREVIEW. "Evita" (Alan Parker, 1996). Film adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical based on the life of Argentina's Eva Peron. Madonna, Jonathan Pryce, Antonio Banderas. FREE. Nat. Sci., 8 p.m. **FV Women & Film Series. "Vagabond"** (Agnes Varda, 1985). December 10 & 11. Haunting, powerful drama about a young drifter and her effect on those she encounters. French, subtitles. Mich., 4:10 p.m. **FV Interior Visions Series. "Heavenly Creatures"** (Peter Jackson, 1994). December 10 & 12. Dark, magical film about two teen girls in an obsessive relationship that leads to murder. With the short **"The Critic"** (Ernest Pintoff, 1952), an early Mel Brooks comedy. Mich., 7 p.m. **MTF. "Trees Lounge"** (Steve Buscemi, 1996). See 8 Sunday. Mich., 9:15 p.m.

11 WEDNESDAY

★**"Questions/Answers on Medicare": Northeast Senior Center.** A chance for seniors to ask questions of medical professionals. Also, free blood pressure checks. *11 a.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. 996–0070.*

★**"Vincent Van Gogh, A Dutchman": U-M Museum of Art.** December 11 & 12. Half-hour documentary on the life and work of the famous painter. *12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Advent Concert Series: First Congregational Church.** See 4 Wednesday. Today: Gini Robison directs the local **Women's Chamber Chorus** in a program that includes Praetorius's "Psallite" and Pergolesi's "Magnificat Anima Mea." Organ accompanist is U-M music professor **Marilyn Mason.** Also, Luebeck's "Christmas Cantata," with violinists Joyce Kerr and Joan Stahman and organist Anna Eggert. Also, the **Chambermaids,** the chorus's vocal sextet, performs Palestrina's "Hodie Christus Natus Est" and Pinkham's "Company at the Creche" (for two violins, oboe, flute, glockenspiel, and organ). 12:15–12:45 p.m.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 4 Wednesday. 3:30–5:15 p.m.

★**"New Voices Rising": Washtenaw Community College.** Monthly performance in which WCC students offer dance, theater, and dramatic readings on a given theme. This month's theme is **"My Story, My Gift."** *4 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Theater, Liberal Arts Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3300.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Architects' Action Network.** Discussion and voting on community service projects. Anyone with an interest or expertise in architecture, landscape, or design is welcome to join this local organization, which offers volunteer opportunities in everything from building homes to producing a local cable TV show. *6–7 p.m., Dominick's restaurant, 812 Monroe. Free. For information, call Anne Crowley at 769–0070 or Maggie McInnis at 761–4022.*

Annual Christmas Auction: American Business Women's Association Embers Chapter. Dinner and auction of mostly handmade goods donated by ABWA members. Auctioneers are the popular, entertaining Braun and Helmer team. Proceeds benefit ABWA's scholarships for college women. *6 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $20 dinner cost (no charge for admission to the auction). For reservations, call Kimberly Johnson at 741–5858.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** See 3 Tuesday. This week's topic: **"Nighttime Stories."** 6:30–7 p.m.

★**"The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man": Ann Arbor District Library.** Deborah Grayson leads a discussion for adults on James Weldon Johnson's 1912 novel about a light-skinned black man who passes for white. In conjunction with the library's current exhibit on the Harlem Renaissance (see 3 Tuesday). *7–9 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 345 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2333.*

★**"An Evening with Louis Nagel": King's Keyboard House.** This distinguished U-M piano professor performs excerpts from his recent CD, "Four Centuries of Bach." *7 p.m., King's Keyboard House, 2333 E. Stadium. Free. 663–3381.*

★**"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble.** See 4 Wednesday. Tonight: *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* and other Caldecott-winning children's books. 7 p.m.

★**"Co-Housing: A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves."** See 3 Tuesday. 7–9 p.m.

★**"Fiction Writing": Harambee Productions.** An introductory discussion of the elements of fiction writing led by local fiction writer Joshua Henkin, a 3-time Hopwood Award winner. *7:30–9:30 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 761–9865.*

★**"A Legacy of Champions": Borders Books and Music.** Some or all of the 5 *Detroit News* sportswriters—Bob Wojnowski, John Bacon, Angelique Chengelis, Chris McCosky, and Joe Falls—who wrote this book on the history of Michigan football are on hand to take questions and sign copies. *7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Shamanic Journeys: Creation Spirituality.** See 4 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"Transformations: Personal and Planetary Healing": Network Healing Community.** See 4 Wednesday. Tonight: Irving Mintz discusses **"Jung's Psychology, Creativity, Social Group Work."** 8 p.m.

★**EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department.** Whitney Prince directs the Percussion Ensemble in Lynn Glasscock's Layers, Carlos Chavez's Toccata for Percussion instruments, Richard Janicki's arrangement of an aria from Bizet's "Carmen," and EMU percussionist Ethan Alen's arrangement of the rock group Genesis's "The Brazilian." Mike Hall directs the Jazz Ensemble in a program to be announced. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys: The Ark. *See review, p. 113.* Steamy, sinewy bayou music by this fast-rising Cajun band from south Louisiana led by accordionist and vocalist Riley, recently named best accordionist at the Cajun French Music Association Awards. With fiddler David Greeley (winner of the CFMA best fiddler award), bassist Peter Schwarz, percussionist Kevin Dugas, and guitarist Jimmy Domengeaux. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Invasion of the Improv": Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 4 Wednesday. 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

FV Women & Film Series. "Vagabond" (Agnes Varda, 1985). See 10 Tuesday. Mich., 5 p.m. **MTF. "Trees Lounge"** (Steve Buscemi, 1996). See 8 Sunday. Mich., 7:30 p.m.

12 THURSDAY

"Home for the Holidays": Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. A tour of four area homes decorated for the holidays by professional designers. Also, an arts market at Barton Hills Country Club. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. *10 a.m.–3 p.m. & 5–8 p.m., various locations. Tickets and maps $15, available in advance at all Dough Boys outlets and other area stores, or by writing Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group, P.O. Box 2334, Ann Arbor 48106–2334. 741–9640.*

★**"Musicianship Through Technique: The First Two Years": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild.** Lecture and keyboard demonstration by Livonia piano teacher Mary Siciliano. *10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–5346.*

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** See 5 Thursday. This week's special programs: Mary Ellen Hagel directs the **Pittsfield Pipers,** a local 15-member seniors recorder ensemble, in a program of holiday music (10 a.m.), and U-M International Center assistant director Kay Clifford discusses **"The Delights and Dilemmas of Communicating Cross-Culturally."** (12:45 p.m.). 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

★**"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble.** See 4 Wednesday. Today: *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* and other Caldecott-winning children's books. 11 a.m.

"Advent Noon Recital Series": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum. See 5 Thursday. Today: First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn directs the church's chancel choir and soloists in a movement from Rachmaninoff's Vespers and the contemporary American composer Gerald Near's carol-based cantata "Cum Nuovo Cantico" (see 22 Sunday listing). Also, carols by Willcocks and Rutter. Noon–1 p.m.

★**Choral Connection: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art.** Carolyn Burnstein directs this local choral group in a playful program of seasonal music. *12:10 p.m., University Hospital 1st-floor lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**Holiday Party: American Association of Retired Persons Monthly Meeting.** Cake and ice cream, and dulcimer music performed by Stephanie Mulkern. Meeting is open to anyone age 50 or older. *1:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. Free. 662–6566.*

★**Boychoir of Ann Arbor: Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party.** The Boychoir's preparatory choir, an ensemble of boys ages 8–11, performs a program of holiday music. Tom Strode directs. *4:15–5:30 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**St. Paul's United Church of Christ Choir: Arborland Mall.** This local church choir performs Christmas carols and other seasonal music. *Evening time to be announced, Arborland Mall. Free. 971–1825.*

★**"Decorating a Tree for the Birds": Wild Birds Unlimited.** See 7 Saturday. 7 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Huron Land Use Alliance.** All invited to discuss ways to promote preservation of open space and the development of livable communities in Washtenaw County. *7–9 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 769–5123.*

★**"Visual Persuasion: A Citizen's Guide": U-M School of Art and Design.** Well-known media critic and historian **Stuart Ewen,** a media studies professor at Hunter College (New York), discusses the impact of contemporary visual images. Ewen's book, *All Consuming Images: The Politics of Style in Contemporary Culture,* inspired Bill Moyers's award-winning PBS series, "The Public Mind: Image and Reality in America." His latest book is *PR!: A Social History of Spin. 7 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 763–1265.*

★**Annual Caroling Party and Luminaria Display: Glacier Hills Retirement Center.** Some 1,000 luminaria (traditional Mexican Christmas lights) create a Christmas glow at this community sing-along. Refreshments. All welcome. *7–8 p.m., Glacier Hills, 1200 Earhart Rd. Free. 769–6410.*

★**"Fleetwood Diner": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** December 12–14. Adam Greenfield directs the premiere of a black comedy by fellow U-M students Greg Zola and Jay Stetson about a variety of strange characters who hang out at Ann Arbor's famous greasy-spoon joint. *7 p.m., Arena Stage (basement of Frieze Bldg.), 105 S. State St. Free. 764–5350.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. December 12–14. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its annual performance of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the story of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. More than 100 dancers from children to adults appear in the production. Principal dancers are Gabriel Richard High School student **Annette Barcelona** as Clara, Pioneer High student **Sara Arnold** as the Snow Queen, **Judith Strous** as the Sugar Plum Fairy, and **Job Christenson** as the Cavalier. Performed to live music by the Michigan Sinfonietta under David Daniels. *7 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $18 (seniors, students, & groups of 20 or more, $10 each; children 12 & under, $8) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall.** See 5 Thursday. Today, "olde worlde clowne" Rick Carver, aka **RickRaockzoo,** performs mime, magic, juggling, and more. 7 p.m.

★**Biweekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Go Club.** December 12 & 26. Players of all ages and ability levels invited to play this ancient board game. Go equipment provided. *7:30–9 p.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 663–1675.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Experimental Aircraft Association.** All who share an interest in aircraft and aviation techniques are welcome at the meetings of this local chapter of a national organization that sponsors the nation's largest air show every August in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Program to be announced. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Airport Terminal Bldg., 801 Airport Dr. (off S. State just south of I-94). Free. For information, call George Hunt at 475–1553.*

★**"Romance Readers": Barnes & Noble.** All invited to discuss Mary Jo Putney's *River of Fire. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**"Songwriters' Open Mike": Oz's Music.** All songwriters invited to perform and talk about their songs. Hosted by Jim Novak. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.*

★**"Vincent Van Gogh, A Dutchman": U-M Museum of Art.** See 11 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers.** See 5 Thursday. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

"Open Jam": Griff's Jams. See 5 Thursday. 8–11 p.m.

"Voices of Winter: Herdman, Hills, & Mangsen": The Ark. An evening of traditional and contemporary songs of the winter season by the all-star female trio of Priscilla Herdman, Anne Hills, and Cindy Mangsen. Separately, each possesses a beautifully clear soprano and a mastery of the folk ballad; together, they are known for their inventive, intricate harmonies and their interpretive warmth and poignancy. They have released an acclaimed CD, "Voices." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 (members, students, & seniors, $11.50) at the door only. 761–1451.*

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. December 12–14. U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. The pieces in this year's concert explore themes of restriction, passion, and constriction. These shows usually sell out, so get there early. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $8 (students, $6) at the door only. 763–5460.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Frank Vignola: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. December 12–14. This New York City

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The book contains information everyone needs to know to tackle today's medical care system. It's easy to read, teaches values, and is fun too. A great gift. For SALE NOW at above locations, Drowsy Parrot in Saline, and bookstores and at 1-800-266-5708 for $9.95.

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monologuist is known for his irreverent, abrasively cynical observational and topical humor. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $10 (members, $5) reserved seating in advance, $10 (members, free) general admission at the door. Memberships are $45 a year. 996–9080.*

FILMS

FV Interior Visions Series. "Heavenly Creatures" (Peter Jackson, 1994). See 10 Tuesday. Mich., 5 p.m. **MTF. "Citizen Kane"** (Orson Welles, 1941). December 12–14. Classic drama about the rise and fall of a powerful newspaper mogul. Mich., 1 p.m. (free showing) & 7:15 p.m. **"Trees Lounge"** (Steve Buscemi, 1996). See 8 Sunday. Mich., 9:45 p.m.

13 FRIDAY

"The 13 Clocks": Wayne State University Opera Workshop. Frances Brockington directs members of WSU's highly acclaimed opera theater program in Mark Bucci's musical adaptation of James Thurber's wonderfully odd fairy tale about a beautiful princess, a prince disguised as a wandering minstrel, and an evil duke so coldhearted that he has frozen Time. Pianist is Gerrie Ball. *10 a.m., Washtenaw Community College Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $2. 677–5090, 677–5039.*

★**Women's Chamber Chorus.** Gini Robison directs this independent local women's chorus in a program of familiar Christmas carols. *Noon, Chapel Hill Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. Free. 677–0678.*

★**"The Movies: Texts, Receptions, Exposures": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party.** U-M English professor Laurence Goldstein and U-M English and film/video studies professor Ira Konigsberg are on hand to sign copies of this recently published collection of writings and visual art they co-edited. Refreshments. *4–6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Celebration of Art": U-M Institute for the Humanities.** Opening reception for a new exhibit of paintings, photos, prints, and sculpture by U-M art school and Residential College instructors. *4:30–6 p.m., Institute for the Humanities, 1524 Rackham Bldg. Free. 763–4463.*

★**"Masked Revelations": Berman Gallery and Lighting Studio.** Opening reception for this exhibit of figural watercolors by Livonia artist Taura Underys. *6–9 p.m., Berman Gallery, 303 Detroit St., Suite 104 (the Market Place Bldg.). Free. 741–0571.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**"Introduction to T'ai Chi Ch'uan": Peaceful Dragon School.** Local t'ai chi instructor Wasentha Young offers an introductory workshop to this ancient martial art form. *6:30–8 p.m., Peaceful Dragon School, 1945 Pauline Blvd. Free. 741–0695.*

"Moonlight Serenade": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Cross-country skiing along groomed and lighted paths. Weather permitting. *6:30–9:30 p.m., Huron Hills Ski Center, 3465 E. Huron River Dr. at Huron Pkwy. $2.50 trail fee. Ski rentals available (adults, $6; youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $3.75). 971–6840.*

★**Monthly Bardic Night: Druids of Shining Lake Grove.** Marae Price leads a workshop on basic liturgical and seasonal chants, followed by free-form drumming, singing, and dancing. *7–11 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665–8428.*

★**Second Friday Discussion: Great Lakes Pathwork.** All invited to discuss the writings channeled by the late Eva Pierrakos, who founded Pathwork, a spiritual and psychological discipline intended to bring about inner wholeness. *7–9 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 930–0864.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. WMU. *7 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. Sold out. 764–0247.*

★**"Fleetwood Diner": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** See 12 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"Q&A with Don Canham": Borders Books and Music.** The longtime U-M athletic director talks about his life and signs copies of his new book, *From the Inside: A Half Century of Michigan Athletes. 7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

"Seth Series on Emerging Multidimensional Relationships": Ann Arbor Practical Psychic Center. Talk by **John Friedlander,** co-author of *The Practical Psychic* and a member of Jane Roberts's original Seth channeling group. Friedlander also channels Seth and takes questions. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Mission Health Education Center Auditorium, 5301 E. Huron River Dr. $10. 662–7046. 663–6075.*

★**"Festive Friday Fun Night": Main Street Area Association.** December 13 & 20. Ann Arbor's downtown area is filled tonight with strolling entertainers, and many stores are open late with special sales. Tonight's entertainers include Our Lady's Madrigal Singers, the County Connection choir, and Santa. *7:30–9:30 p.m., downtown Main Street area. Free. 668–7112.*

Family Folk Dance Circle. John Walker calls contras, squares, big circle, and play party dances. Live music by Kindred Spirits. *7:30–10 p.m., South Meadow Elementary School (Pierce off Main/M-52), Chelsea. $3.50 (children, $1). 475–9830.*

Empatheater: Kerrytown Concert House. This local theater group directed by psychologist Sara Schreiber invites audience members to write down their concerns and life situations, which the actors then use as a basis for improvisation. Schreiber describes the process as "a combination of psychodrama, improvisational theater, and drama therapy." *7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $8 (students & seniors, $6) at the door. 769–2999.*

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Institute.** All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book of lectures on *Karmic Relationships, Vol. II.* Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. The group meets on occasional Fridays. *8–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner Institute, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 662–9355.*

★**Musical Theater Workshop: U-M School of Music.** Students in the U-M musical theater program perform excerpts from Broadway shows and cabaret songs. *8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.*

"So Many Stars: Kathleen Battle and Friends": University Musical Society. *See review, right.* Lyric soprano Kathleen Battle has long been renowned for one of the most ethereally beautiful voices in opera. Last year, she joined a group of leading jazz musicians to record "So Many Stars," a collection of spirituals, Duke Ellington tunes, Spanish and Brazilian lullabies, and love songs. The artists have reunited for a concert tour featuring music from the album. Performers are pianist **Cyrus Chestnut,** bassist **Christian McBride,** saxophonist **James Carter,** percussionist **Cyro Baptista,** and guitarist **Romero Lubambo.** *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $18–$46 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Sally Fingerett: The Ark. *Postponed from October.* Best known locally as one of the Four Bitchin' Babes, Fingerett sings vividly crafted original songs in a brassy, sassy style. She was a winner of a prestigious New Folk Songwriter award at the 1996 Kerrville Folk Festival. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. $10 (members, students, & seniors, $9). 761–1451.*

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. December 13–15, 20–22, & 27–29. Joanna Woodcock directs this musical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's "Wild Swans" that she co-wrote with composer and lyricist Ben Cohen. A perfectly innocent princess must use all her skills and capacity for discipline and hard work to free her five brothers from evil spells and free the kingdom from enchantment. Aimed at kids age 6 & older and adults with a capacity for child-like wonder. The talented cast includes Suzanne Willets-Brook, Tracy Leigh Komarmy, Dan Beckett, Nona Bennett, Maria Besson (a professional Spanish opera singer living in town for a year), Brian Faulkner, Robyn Heller, Ernie Nolan, Rebecca Surmont, Ariel Weymouth Payne, and director Woodcock. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Tickets $12 (students*

classical music

Cyrus Chestnut and Kathleen Battle.

Kathleen Battle
Crossover

The most obvious question to ask is, "Can Kathleen Battle actually sing popular standards with a jazz band instead of singing classic repertoire with a symphonic orchestra?" Based on the evidence of "So Many Stars," last year's CD featuring such standards, the answer is, "More or less." Battle certainly has a great voice—luminously dark and vibrant in tone, with a glistening top, a warm bottom, and nothing but rich velvet in between. And she surely has the technique. She can place a note with uncanny accuracy, execute a trill or a run with perfect ease, and display her voluptuous vibrato with total control. With that voice and technique at her command, Battle can slip effortlessly into the melodies of the love songs, lullabies, and spirituals she has chosen as if they were luxuriously hand-tailored gowns designed exclusively for her.

That's the "more"; the "less" is a matter of taste. Is Battle's voice, gorgeous as it may be, appropriate for Sergio Mendes's "So Many Stars"? Is her voice, an instrument powerful enough to soar over an orchestra, capable of the intimacy required of the spiritual "Steal Away"?

No one could deny that Battle's accompanists, Cyrus Chestnut, Christian McBride, James Carter, and Cyro Baptista, are superb musicians who provide a tasteful light jazz context for Battle. But is it the appropriate context? Battle is always right on the beat, always right on the note. Her players are always inside the beat—a little ahead, a little behind, squeezing it here, pulling it there—and always slipping into the note from below or sliding onto it from above. The contrast between Battle's hard-edged classical technique and her accompanists' soulful smoothness isn't a gap, it's an abyss.

Finally, why would Battle *want* to sing standards? Battle's explanation is that she's simply performing songs she has always known and loved. After all, classically trained singers have been performing popular songs as encores for centuries, and Battle's decision to do a whole show of standards merely extends that tradition.

However, given Battle's highly publicized (and controversial) departure from the Metropolitan Opera, some have speculated that the decision to perform popular songs with a jazz ensemble could be Battle's way of softening her edgy public persona. Even if she was a devilish prima donna at the Met, who could harshly judge the woman who performs "Angels Watching Over Me" with such ethereal elegance?

Kathleen Battle and Friends appear at Hill Auditorium on Friday, December 13. —*Jim Leonard*

& seniors, $9; children under 12, $6) in advance by reservation and at the door. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Frank Vignola: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 12 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

FV Food & Film Series. "Frenzy" (Alfred Hitchcock, 1972). Dark, twisted thriller about a serial rapist-murderer in 1960s London. FREE. Nat. Sci., 5 p.m. **"Citizen Kane"** (Orson Welles, 1941). See 12 Thursday. Mich., 7:20 p.m. **"Trees Lounge"** (Steve Buscemi, 1996). See 8 Sunday. Mich., 9:50 p.m.

14 SATURDAY

Community Garage Sale: Recycle Ann Arbor. All invited to sell their excess & unwanted stuff. Also, a chance to check out the new ReUse Center's stock of salvaged construction, remodeling, and demolition waste, including doors, windows, floor tiles, roofing material, lumber, and lots more. *8 a.m.–4 p.m., RAA ReUse Center, 2420 S. Industrial. Free admission. Reservations for sellers required by December 13. 662–6288.*

Fall Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. December 14 & 15. A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. *9 a.m.–noon, First Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Free admission. Wheelchair accessible. 663–0362.*

★**Work Day: Nichols Arboretum.** All invited to join this monthly outing to combat invasive shrubs in an ongoing effort to restore savanna-like conditions around the Arb's Dow Field prairie. U-M natural resources professor Bob Grese gives a short talk on prairie ecosystems for anyone interested. Bring clippers and work gloves. Other tools and snacks provided. Held year-round: rain, snow, or shine. *9 a.m.–noon. Meet at the west end of Dow Field. Free. For information, call Susan Letts at 763–5832 or Bob Grese at 763–0645.*

Peace Team Training: Ann Arbor Friends Meeting/Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Rev. Peter Dougherty and others from the Lansing-based Michigan Faith and Resistance Peace Team lead a workshop on peaceful resistance to hate groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan, who held a rally in Ann Arbor last summer that provoked violence between protestors and police. *9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., location to be announced. $10. 663–1870.*

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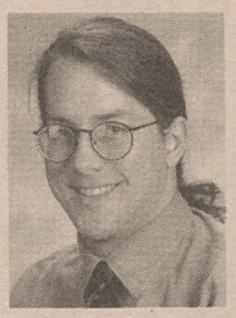

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Post Holiday Blues — Or Something More?

Many people become depressed after the holidays. For some, the depression is very deep and disruptive. Is such a reaction simply an adjustment to the resumption of normal routine? Is it to be expected that you will feel a "let down" after the rush of the holidays? Or does a depression in January or February indicate other issues? How can you differentiate between a 'let down' after the holidays and a more serious depression? Why does it matter whether you can know the difference?

A post–holiday let down will feel quite different from a more serious depression. The former may be described by the feeling of "Gosh, I hate to go back to work." Or "I don't want my vacation to be over yet." A more serious depression is characterized by some combination of anger, lack of involvement in life, difficulty sleeping, and a sense of being blocked or an inability to 'get going.' You will not necessarily experience all of the above symptoms, but what you experience will have a deeper, more pervasive aspect than just regret that the holidays have passed.

The question may arise, "If this is a pre–existing depression, why does it surface during or after the holidays?" People who have experienced disappointments early in life often look to the holidays to solve such deprivations. They are inevitably disappointed. But how can you know if what you feel is simply disappointment, or something more? If you find yourself being angry over the gifts you received, or angry at family members, and the anger does not subside, you may be experiencing something more.

It is important to know the difference between a post holiday 'let down' and a prevailing depression stimulated by the holiday because the latter unnecessarily interferes with a fulfilling life. Post holiday 'blues' go away in a short time. Depression will only go away if it is addressed and treated.

For further information or an appointment you may call:
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EVENTS *continued*

Center/Youth Services. Some 20–30 card dealers from throughout Michigan and out of state offer a vast array of sports and other collector cards. Selected cards are auctioned off at the end of the day. Door prizes include a $25 "shopping spree" good at any of the dealer tables. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Admission $1. 662–3128.*

Annual Holiday Gift Making Workshop: The Scrap Box. Children ages 5 and older are invited to use scrap materials and "fun junk" to make a total of five gifts in this supervised workshop. *10 a.m.–noon & 1–3 p.m., The Scrap Box, 521 State Circle (off S. State). $10 per child. Reservations required. 994–0012.*

"Annual Cookie Walk": First United Methodist Church. Stroll through a cookie bazaar and make your own selections or purchase prepacked assortments. Proceeds benefit international education and medical projects. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Free admission. 668–6829.*

★**"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** See 1 Sunday. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

★**"Arb Walk": Cyberspace Communications.** See 7 Saturday. 10 a.m.

★**Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** See 10 Tuesday. 10 a.m.–noon.

"Santa Paws": Humane Society of Huron Valley. See 7 Saturday. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

"A Cold Winter's Night"/"The Four Seasons": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. December 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, & 29. "A Cold Winter's Night" is an audiovisual exploration of the astronomy and mythology of the stars and planets currently visible in the sky. "The Four Seasons" is an audiovisual show about the sun's annual journey along the ecliptic and how its changing position influences the seasons. *10:30 & 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("A Cold Winter's Night"); 12:30 & 3:30 p.m. ("The Four Seasons"); U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. $3 (seniors & children 12 & under, $2). "The Four Seasons" is not recommended for kids age 6 & under. 764–0478.*

★**Daedalus Art Foundry Tour: New Art League Second Saturday Morning (U-M Museum of Art).** Guided tour of this Monroe County foundry where artisans make sculpture and other art works from cast metal. *11 a.m., Daedalus Art Foundry, Center St., Petersburg (take US-23 south to exit 13, go right on Ida-Petersburg Rd. to first stop sign, then right on Center). Free. (313) 279–1250.*

★**Women's Self-Defense Class: Keith Hafner's Karate.** A 45-minute session for women and girls ages 7 and older. Addresses assault prevention measures as well as self-defense techniques. *11 a.m., Keith Hafner's Karate, 214 S. Main. Free, but preregistration requested by December 13. 994–0033.*

★**"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company.** See 7 Saturday. Also today, a visit from **Clifford, the Big Red Dog** (noon). 11 a.m.

★**"Children's Hour": Borders Books and Music.** See 7 Saturday. Today: guest storyteller Annette Bowman appears as the **Winter Fairy.** 11 a.m.

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. See 7 Saturday. 11 a.m.

★**"Shine, Jesus, Shine": Arborland Mall.** The choir of Bethesda Baptist Church performs gospel tunes and more. *Noon, Arborland Mall. Free. 971–1825.*

★**"On the Whitetail's Trail": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Hudson Mills naturalist Faye Stoner presents a short indoor program on the whitetail deer, followed by a hike along deer trails to look for them or signs of their presence. *1 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Oak Meadows Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: $3 per vehicle.) Preregistration requested. 426–8211.*

★**"Homeopathic Resources": Whole Foods Market.** Local physician Dennis Chernin is on hand today to demonstrate his new software program, a guide to homeopathic remedies. *1–6 p.m., Whole Foods Market, Lamp Post Plaza, 2398 E. Stadium. Free. 971–3366.*

"Holiday Gift Workshops": Ann Arbor Art Center. See 7 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

Open House: Kempf House Center for Local History. See 7 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

★**Links to Literature: Ann Arbor District Library.** Members of this African-American community group read the poetry and prose of Langston Hughes, W. E. B. DuBois, and other leading figures of the Harlem Renaissance. In conjunction with the library's current exhibit (see 3 Tuesday). *2–4 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 345 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2333.*

Holiday Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. AASPA's youth string orchestras and the Michigan Children of SCORE (Strings, Choral, Orff, Recorder Ensemble), a vocal and instrumental ensemble of area children ages 9–13, perform holiday music from around the world. *Note:* the school's jazz ensembles perform tomorrow at Concordia College (see listing). *2 p.m., Michigan Theater. $5 (families, $10) donation. 995–4625.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 12 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Skate with Santa": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Santa is on hand to skate with kids of all ages and hand out holiday treats. Parents are invited to bring their cameras. *2:30–4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Outdoor Ice Rink, 2751 Packard Rd. (next to Cobblestone Farm). $2.50 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, $2). Skate rentals available ($1.75). 971–3228.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 24 boys in its 10th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city" and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day," and it features "A Ceremony of Carols," Benjamin Britten's celebrated carol sequence for boys' voices and harp. Also, John Joubert's virtuoso settings of "All and some" and "Torches," John Rutter's "What sweeter music," and David Willcock's arrangements of "Away in a manger" (with solo boy soprano) and the "Sussex Carol." The boy singers are supplemented by men singers, who provide the lower choral parts. Also, the Boychoir's 13-member Preparatory Choir performs John Rutter's "The Star Carol" and the traditional "Welcome Yule!" The program concludes with a sing-along of traditional carols. Organist and flute and harp soloists to be announced. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so come early for a good seat. *3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $10 (students, $6) in advance and at the door. Family rates available. 663–5377.*

"Sing-Along with Santa and Sam": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. AASO director **Sam Wong** plays the piano and **Santa** conducts this hour-long family carol sing-along emceed by local radio personality **Lucy Ann Lance.** Also, music by the church's **handbell choir.** *Note:* The AASO presents its annual "Holiday Festival" tomorrow at the Michigan Theater (see 15 Sunday). *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $5 (children 12 & under), $10 (adults), $25 (families of 6 or fewer), & $50 (patron families). For reservations, call 994–4801.*

★**U-M Gospel Chorale.** Janae Pitts, a U-M 3rd-year communications student, directs this 90-member choir made up of U-M students and faculty in a program of contemporary and traditional gospel music, including spirituals. The group, which was founded 8 years ago, performs frequently in the community and has opened for such artists as The Winans, Yolanda Adams, and Sounds of Blackness. *5 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–3088.*

"Boar's Head Festival": First Presbyterian Church. December 14 & 15. First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn conducts the church orchestra, all five of the church choirs, and vocal soloists. The program begins with the procession of the boar's head, the bringing in of the Yule log, and wassail carols, and it features secular Renaissance dance, instrumental, choral, and vocal music, and a lavishly lighted, fully

staged Nativity pageant with sacred carols. The audience is invited to join in much of the singing. This is the church's first Boar's Head Festival since Wilburn became music director a couple years ago, and the refurbished program features new costumes, sets, and music. *5 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. $5 (children & younger, $2) in advance Sunday mornings at the church and (if available) at the door. 662–4466.*

Family Chess Club: Adventures in Chess. See 7 Saturday. 5–10 p.m.

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** See 7 Saturday. Sunset–1 a.m.

★**"Fleetwood Diner": U-M Basement Arts Theater.** See 12 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Ballroom Dancing Night": Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing from waltzes to rumbas, with taped music from the 40s through the 80s. Preceded by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Baries, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. *7–8 p.m. (instruction), 8–10:30 p.m. (dancing), Pittsfield Twp. Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $3. 996–3056. 662–6398.*

★**"A Christmas Imagination": Rudolf Steiner Institute.** Kathy Guttermore directs the Rudolf Steiner Institute's Festival Theater Group in a production of Ann Arborite Katherine Katz's adaptation of the medieval shepherd's play. Followed by socializing and refreshments. Children age 5 & older welcome if accompanied by an adult. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner Institute, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free.*

Swingin' A's Square Dance Club. December 14 & 28. All experienced dancers invited. Thirty minutes of round dances, cued by Chuck Weiss, followed by square dancing (8–10:30 p.m) with caller Dave Walker. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Whitmore Lake High School, 8845 Main St., Whitmore Lake. $8 per couple. 662–8598, 426–5274.*

"19th-Century Holiday Cotillion": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Vintage ballroom and traditional dancing to live music by David West and Donna Baird. Includes waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, and country dances. Singles and couples of all abilities are welcome. Period attire encouraged but not required. Also, two pre-ball workshops today: a **beginners' quadrille and set dances workshop** (1–2:30 p.m.) and an **advanced Polonaise workshop** (2:30–4 p.m.). Live music and refreshments. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $20 ($17 before November 30). Pre-ball workshops included in ball fee; workshops only, $5. Preregistration required. 429–0014.*

★**"Paleolithic Cave Sites in the Dordogne Region of France": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Slide-illustrated talk by Shaman Drum owner **Karl Pohrt** and EMU English professor **Clayton Eshleman,** an acclaimed poet and well-known expert on the Dordogne cave drawings. Pohrt accompanied Eshleman on a trip he led to the caves last summer. *8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

"Songs of Starlight and Inner Vision": University Reformed Church/Academy of Early Music. Local soprano Norma Gentile performs sacred chants and reads the poetry of the 12th-century mystic and abbess Hildegard von Bingen, whose work has been the focus of Gentile's performance career for the past six years. Includes silent meditation and a chance for audience members to participate in some of the chants. The audience is encouraged to bring candles or other significant objects to place in the center of the meditation circle. *8 p.m., University Reformed Church, 1001 N. Huron (across from the Power Center). $10 (students, $6) in advance at SKR Classical and at the door. To charge by phone, call 995–5051. For information, call 332–4606.*

Quorum Chamber Arts Collective: Kerrytown Concert House. This eclectic chamber ensemble is composed of bassoonist Winston Collier, pianist Midori Koga, saxophonist Timothy McAllister, percussionist Alison Show, and violinist Carolyn Stuart. All are instructors with

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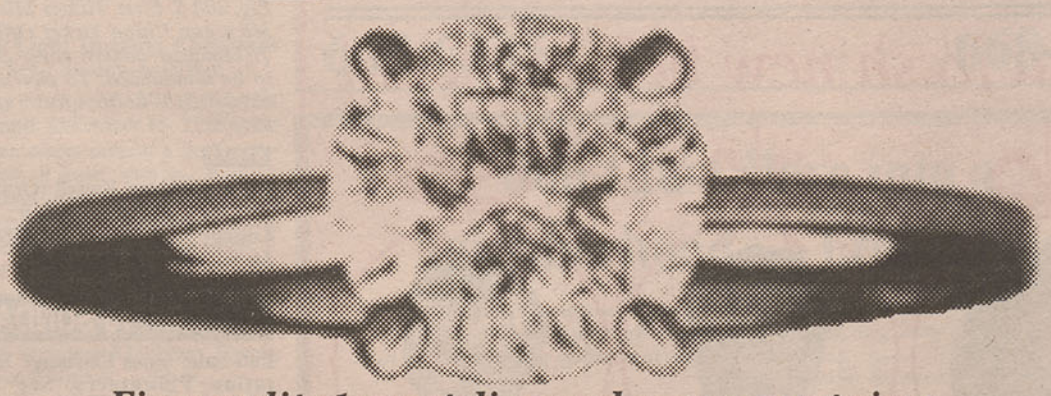

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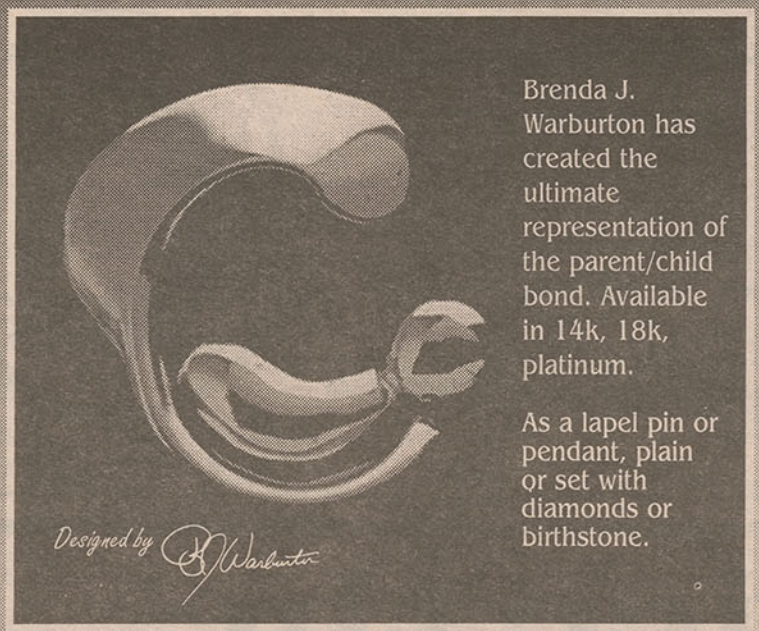

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EVENTS *continued*

the Interlochen Arts Camp and/or Michigan State University. The group is dedicated to promoting new works by contemporary composers. Tonight, they perform works by Stephen Rush, Evan Chambers, and other Michigan composers. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $9 & $12 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Joel Mabus: The Ark. This MSU grad is regarded by his peers as one of the hottest pickers on the folk circuit. A virtuoso on guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle, Mabus is also an excellent songwriter, known for his trenchant humor and eclectic "folk-a-billy" style. "Mabus is everything a modern string player should be—versatile, innovative, tasty, and funny," says Martin Keller of the *Twin Cities Reader*. Tonight Mabus celebrates the release of his 11th LP, "Western Passage," an all-instrumental suite for solo guitar that blends 19th-century American folk melodies with original tunes. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $11 (members, students, & seniors, $10) at the door only. 761–1451.*

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 12 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Frank Vignola: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 12 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

The Why Store: Prism Productions. Heartland rock 'n' roll by this popular semi-acoustic grunge-flavored roots-rock quintet from Muncie, Indiana. Two songs from its recently released debut MCA CD, "Lack of Water" and "Father," have been getting heavy radio play. *10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets; cover charge at the door to be announced. To charge by phone, call (810) 645–6666; for information, call 996–8555.*

FILMS

MTF. "Citizen Kane" (Orson Welles, 1941). See 12 Thursday. Mich., 5 p.m. **"Trees Lounge"** (Steve Buscemi, 1996). See 8 Sunday. Mich., 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.

15 SUNDAY

Fall Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. See 14 Saturday. 9 a.m.–noon.

"21st Annual Elmo's Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk": Elmo's Supershirts. More of a tour than a timed run. Meet at the Michigan Theater to divide into small groups, each led by a volunteer "rundeer," for a 45-minute run, jog, or walk through the U-M Diag and Arboretum. The course returns to the Michigan Theater for refreshments, singing, and door prizes. *10 a.m. (registration), 10:15 a.m. (warm-up exercises), 10:30 a.m. (run/walk), Michigan Theater. $1 donation. 994–9898.*

★**"Winter Birds": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC's informative and entertaining naturalist Matt Heumann leads a walk along the new Hoyt G. Post Trail to look for birds. Bring a bird book and binoculars. *10 a.m., Parker Mill County Park, just east of US-23 on Geddes. Free. 971–6337.*

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. See 1 Sunday. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** See 1 Sunday. Today's program to be announced. 10:30 a.m.

★**"The Giant French Magical Fantasy Toy Box Adventure": U-M Museum of Art.** A day of family fun celebrating the UMMA exhibit **"Images d'Epinal"** *(see review, p. 125).* In addition to the colorful exhibition, which includes giant toy soldier cutouts, a puppet theater with moveable parts, and a giant game board, attractions include French folk tales and songs, learning fun French phrases, face painting, a magic show (1 & 3 p.m.), and much more. *Noon–4 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program.** See 1 Sunday. 12:30–3:30 p.m.

★**"From Papyri to King James: The Transmission of the English Bible": U-M Special Collections Library.** Opening reception for this annual exhibit that draws visitors from around the Midwest. The display of rare and ancient Biblical manuscripts from the U-M's outstanding collection includes 2nd-century papyrus fragments of the letters of St. Paul, illuminated medieval manuscripts, and an original leaf from the Gutenberg Bible. Today's open house includes brief talks by curators and showings of films on papyri research. *1–5 p.m., U-M Special Collections Library, 711 Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library. Free. 764–9377.*

★**"Open House and Christmas Concert": Unity Church of Ann Arbor.** All invited to tour the church's new building. Activities include the arrival of Santa and "The After Christmas Tree," a children's Christmas play performed by kids ages 4–11 in the church's Sunday school (1:30 p.m.), and a concert of contemporary Christmas songs (2:30 p.m.) sung by Unity Church minister Scott McClintock and music director Michael Hulbert-Shearon, who also accompanies on piano. Refreshments. *1–5 p.m., Unity Church of Ann Arbor, 4599 Carpenter Rd. (just south of the I-94 overpass). Free. 434–8545.*

★**Holiday Open House: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** Jazz music by students ages 9–12 from the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts, refreshments, and tours of the MBG's elaborate conservatory, housing exotic plants from around the world. Also, a 9-foot poinsettia tree is on display. *1–4 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 998–7061.*

"Santa on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Santa in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. Free candy canes. *1–3 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $4 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, $3.25). Skate rentals available ($1.75). 761–7240.*

32nd Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's famous Christmas oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semi-professionals, serious amateurs, families, church choirs, etc. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by First Methodist Church chancel choir director Bob Pratt, who was for many years the choral director at Pioneer High. Scores are provided, or participants may bring their own. (The "Prout" edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players bring their own stands. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. *1 p.m. (orchestra reports), 1:15 p.m. (singers report), 1:30 p.m. (performance), St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Mary Steffek Blaske at 665–5964.*

★**"Co-Housing: A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves."** See 3 Tuesday. 1–3 p.m.

Open House: Kempf House Center for Local History. See 7 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

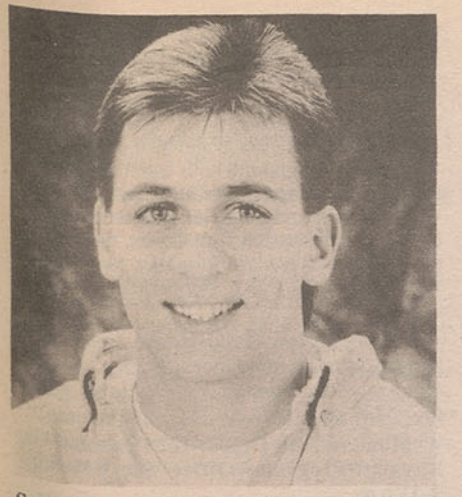
★**"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** See 1 Sunday. 1 p.m.

★**"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio.** See 1 Sunday. 1 p.m.

★**"Upstairs at Borders": Borders Books and Music.** See 1 Sunday. Today: klezmer music by **The Ethnic Connection.** 1 p.m.

"Bluegrass and Old-Time Country Music Jam Session": Ypsilanti Farmers' Market. All acoustic musicians invited to bring their instruments to this monthly jam session. Proceeds to benefit the restoration of the Farmers' Market Freight House. *1:30–5 p.m., Farmers' Market Freight House, E. Cross at River St., Depot Town, Ypsilanti. $2 donation. 930–2680.*

★**Ann Arbor Civic Chorus: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art.** Rebecca Vlisides directs this popular local chorus in Broadway songs and pop tunes. *1:30 p.m., University Hospital 1st-floor lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*



South Lyon native and EMU grad John Heffron brings his comical observations about the indignities and absurdities of life from the points of view of children to the Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, Dec. 19–21.

"A Cold Winter's Night"/"The Four Seasons": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 14 Saturday. 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("A Cold Winter's Night"); 3:30 p.m. ("The Four Seasons").

★**Monthly Meeting: Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.** Robin Ashlock of the U-M Lesbian Gay Bisexual Programs Office discusses **"Bisexuality."** Followed by small discussion groups. *2–5 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Free. 741–0659.*

★**Sunday Tour: U-M Museum of Art.** See 1 Sunday. Today: **"Images d'Epinal."** 2 p.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall.** See 5 Thursday. Today, the Royal American Folklore and International Puppetry Theater directed by John Byrne presents **"Pierre and the Alligator,"** a Creole-Cajun retelling of the story of Peter and the Wolf. 2:30 p.m.

★**Japanese Tea Ceremony: U-M Museum of Art.** Docents enact a traditional Japanese tea ceremony in the museum's beautiful teahouse, with explanation of the ritual's symbolism. *3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Student Recital: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Various combos from the school's new Jazz Ensemble Program perform under the direction of pianist Brian Smith, bassist David Stearns, and drummer Pete Siers, who also perform solos. *3 p.m., Concordia College Kreft Center for the Arts, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Free. 995–4625.*

★**Ann Arbor–Motown Hash House Harriers.** See 1 Sunday. 3 p.m.

15th Annual "Holiday Brass": Galliard Brass Ensemble. A popular annual tradition featuring this award-winning local brass quintet led by trumpeter Charles Larkins. The program opens with the group's signature performance of Samuel Scheidt's "Galliard Battaglia," a lively Baroque dance number in which the main theme is tossed back and forth by the trumpets as the musicians proceed down the aisle. The program also includes works by Bach, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Schein, and Hanukkah and Christmas tunes, including the popular "Carols for Brass," arranged by Galliard alum Richard Price. Special guest this year is bass-baritone **Donald Hartmann,** an EMU voice professor with a national reputation as an opera and oratorio singer. He joins the ensemble for Schutz's "Fili Mi Absalom" and the aria "Mighty Lord and King All Glorious" from Bach's "Christmas Oratorio." As always, the program contains some lighthearted numbers—featured this year are Mel Torme's "The Christmas Song" and a humorous vocal rendition of a Mozart horn concerto. Galliard members are trumpeters Larkins and Christopher Hart, French horn player Willard Zirk, trombonist Michael Hall, and tuba player David Saltzman. *3:30 p.m. (doors open at 2:45 p.m.), St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $12 (adults), $8 (students & seniors), & $5 (children 12 & under), available in advance or at the door. For reservations, call 662–5146.*

★**Holiday Carillon Recital: U-M School of Music.** U-M carillonneur **Margo Halsted** plays Christmas carols and seasonal music on the U-M's massive, 4 1/2-octave, 55-bell Charles Baird Carillon. The public is welcome to join her in the bell chamber and playing room, sing along, and view the bells after the concert. *4 p.m., Burton Memorial Tower (10th floor). Elevator-accessible. Free. 764–2539.*

★**Monthly Book Discussion: Stilyagi Air Corps.** All invited to discuss a science-fiction novel to be announced. *5 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. For information, call Chad at (313) 390–2369.*

"Boar's Head Festival": First Presbyterian Church. See 14 Saturday. 5 p.m.

★**Ecumenical Service: U-M Campus Chapel.** This monthly service features singing of meditative music from the ecumenical community of Taize, France. The service also includes prayer, meditation, readings, silence, and Holy Communion. All invited. *6 p.m., U-M Campus Chapel, 1236 Washtenaw Ct. (off Washtenaw one block south of Geddes). Free. 668–7421, 662–2402.*

"Holiday Festival": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Maestro Sam Wong directs the AASO and the **Ann Arbor Cantata Singers** in this holiday family concert. Program includes excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" Suite and Bach's Christmas Oratorio, and an audience sing-along led by mezzo-soprano **Judy Dow Rumelhart.** *6–8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $15, $20, & $25 (discounts for seniors, students, & children) in advance at the AASO office and (today only, noon–6 p.m.) at the Michigan Theater box office. 994–4801.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**"Come to the Manger": First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti.** December 15–17. Church and community members present a brief reenactment of the birth of Jesus, with live animals, music, and costumes. Visitors can join a carol sing and pet the animals between performances. Refreshments in the church social hall. *6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m., First Baptist Church, 1110 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Wheelchair-accessible. Free. 482–7380.*

★**Planning and Strategy Meeting: Huron Valley Greens.** See 8 Sunday. 7–9 p.m.

Weekly Meeting: U-M Ballroom Dance Club. See 8 Sunday. 7–8 p.m. (beginning bolero lessons), 8–9:30 p.m. (general dancing).

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. See 1 Sunday. 7–9:30 p.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**37th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** All invited to join this local Christmas tradition. Congregation members read nine lessons that tell the story of God's dealings with mankind, from the fall of Adam and Eve through Old Testament prophecy and the birth of Christ. Each lesson has an associated hymn or carol, some sung by the choir and some by the congregation. St. Andrew's adult and junior choirs are under the direction of Tom Strode. Music includes settings of traditional carols by Peter Warlock, David Willocks, and G. R. Woodward, as well as Warlock's setting of the traditional text "Tyrley, tyrlow," John Rutter's setting of "What sweeter music," Simon Lindley's setting of "Ave Maria," Elizabeth Poston's setting of "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree," William Walton's "All This Time," Peter Wishart's "Alleluia, a new work," and Kenneth Leighton's "Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child." Congregational carols include "Once in royal David's city," "What star is this?," "O come, O come Emmanuel," "Lo, how he comes with clouds descending," and "O Little Town of Bethlehem." *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free, but an offering is taken to benefit the St. Andrew's breakfast program and the Shelter*

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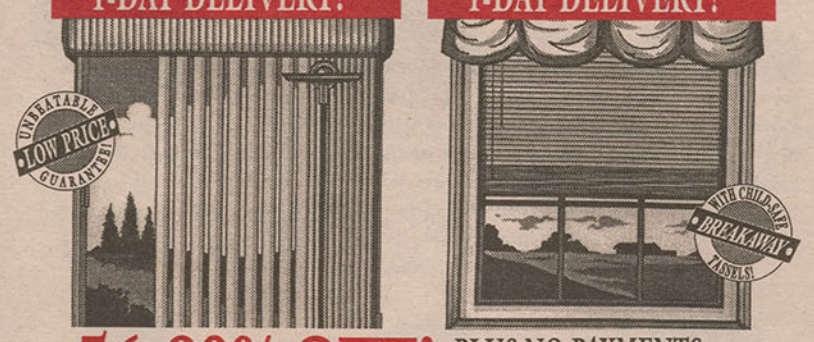

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Association of Ann Arbor. 663–0518.

Annual Ragtime-Jazz Holiday Bash: First Unitarian Church. This popular annual tradition features piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with some boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good measure. U-M piano professor and composer **Bill Albright** hosts a lineup of top-notch local performers that includes pianists **Jim Dapogny, Bob Seeley, Mike Montgomery, Kerry Price,** and surprise guests to be announced. *8 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $6) at the door only. 665–6158.*

Jorma Kaukonen: Prism Productions. *Tentative.* A founding member of Jefferson Airplane and a leader of the early 70s progressive blues band Hot Tuna, Kaukonen is a brilliant folk guitarist. His repertoire includes lots of finger-picking blues in the style of the Reverend Gary Davis, similarly styled originals, and some songs he wrote for the Airplane, including "Embryonic Journey" and "Good Shepherd." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets (prices to be announced) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

No films.

16 MONDAY

★Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army. See 2 Monday. 10:30 a.m.–noon.

★"December Movies": Ann Arbor District Library. December 9 & 16 (different programs). A series of 30-minute film programs for preschoolers. Today: Three animated shorts adapted from children's stories, William Steig's **"Sylvester and the Magic Pebble"** (a boy turns himself into a rock to escape the jaws of a hungry lion), Tomie dePaola's retelling of **"Strega Nona"** (a boy finds himself knee-deep in trouble—and pasta—when he uses a magic pasta pot without permission), and Quentin Blake's **"Patrick"** (a boy brings the countryside to life with his fiddle music). Recommended for preschoolers. *11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–2345.*

Weekly Luncheon Series: M Club of Ann Arbor. See 2 Monday. 11:30 a.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★"Natural Healing with Nutrition and Herbs with Cindy Klement." See 2 Monday. This week: **"Introduction to Iridology."** 6:30–7:30 p.m.

★"Come to the Manger": First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. See 15 Sunday. 6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m.

"Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt": Ann Arbor AIDS Memorial Quilt Display Committee. December 16 & 17. Benefit screening of Robert Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's 1989 documentary examining the lives of 5 people who died of AIDS, including an Olympic decathlon star, an intravenous drug user, and an 11-year-old hemophiliac. Narrated by Dustin Hoffman, with original music by Bobby McFerrin. Proceeds to support the upcoming exhibit of panels from the AIDS Quilt, which will come to Ann Arbor in February. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $6.50 (seniors, children, & students, $5; Michigan Theater members, $4.50). 913–9629.*

★"Liturgists' Round Table": Druids of Shining Lake Grove. See 2 Monday. 7–9 p.m.

★Monthly Meeting: Embroiderers' Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities and interests are invited to work on their own stitching projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 662–4981 (eves.).*

"The Maze in the Aquarium": NetWork PlayWrights. U-M Residential College drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs a reading of this new play by local playwright Lyn Coffin, a former Hopwood winner who in writing this play has drawn on her experience as a single mother, therapist, and vice president of the local chapter of Parents Without Partners. The action is the darkly humorous story of the relationship between a single mother, whose attentions are focused on her ex-husband and his family, and her 13-year-old daughter, who is torn by conflicting loyalties and starved for attention. Stars playwright Coffin and Schuyler Hibbard. Followed by an open discussion with Coffin, the cast, and the audience. *8 p.m.,Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. $3 suggested donation. 663–0681.*

★Writers Series: Guild House. Readings by two poets to be announced. *8:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 677–6839, 662–5189.*

★"Monday Nite OUT": U-M Lesbian Gay Bisexual Programs Office. See 2 Monday. 9–11 p.m.

FILMS

Ann Arbor AIDS Memorial Quilt Display Committee. "Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt" (Robert Epstein & Jeffrey Friedman, 1989). See Events listing above. Mich., 7 p.m.

17 TUESDAY

★Monthly Open Meeting: Community Partnership. All invited to join this task force dedicated to discouraging the use and abuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco among young people in Washtenaw County. Today's program to be announced. *8:30–10 a.m., Washtenaw County Human Services Bldg., 555 Towner, Ypsilanti. Free. 484–6620.*

Heart Health Screening: Washtenaw County Health Services Group. See 9 Monday. *9:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m., Washtenaw County Cooperative Extension Bldg., Hogback at Washtenaw. Cost to be announced. 484–7200.*

★"Natural Healing with Nutrition and Herbs with Cindy Klement." See 2 Monday. This week: **"Introduction to Iridology."** 9:30–10:30 a.m.

★"Songwriting Cafe": Washtenaw Community College. WCC students perform their original songs in a cafe setting. *4 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Lobby, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3300.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★"Come to the Manger": First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. See 15 Sunday. 6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m.

★Biweekly Meeting: Washtenaw Ski Touring Club. See 3 Tuesday. Tonight: potluck dinner and planning for a trip to Marquette. 7 p.m.

★"Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance": Ann Arbor District Library. Showing of this documentary about black artists' struggle for recognition during the 1920s and 30s. In conjunction with the library's current exhibit on the Harlem Renaissance (see 3 Tuesday). *7–9 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 345 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2333.*

★"Druidic Lore and Magical Tradition": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. See 3 Tuesday. 7–10 p.m.

★Annual Members' Slide Show: Sierra Club Monthly Meeting. Sierra Club members show slides of their favorite trips. All welcome. Preceded by a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. (bring your own utensils, beverage, and a dish to pass). *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 665–7345.*

★African-American Book Discussion Group: Packard Community Clinic. All invited to discuss John Edgar Wideman's *Brothers and Keepers. 7:30–9:30 p.m., Packard Community Clinic, 3174 Packard Rd. Free. 971–1073.*

Community Education Series: Dawn Farm. See 3 Tuesday. Tonight, social worker Ronald Harrison discusses **"Progression of Codependency."** 7:30 p.m.

★Speed Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club. See 3 Tuesday. 7:30 p.m.

Peach Mountain Intermediate Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. See 3 Tuesday. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

★Open-Mike Poetry Night: Barnes & Noble.

All poets invited to read their work. Prizes. Listeners welcome. Free coffee. Registration requested by 7:30 p.m. *8 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. See 3 Tuesday. 8:30–11:30 p.m.

★**"Trivia Night": Heidelberg Restaurant.** See 3 Tuesday. 9–11 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Cyclo" (Tran Anh Hung, 1996). December 17–19. Gritty, disturbing drama about the life of a Vietnamese pedicab driver and his family in modern Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnamese, subtitles. Mich., 7 p.m. **Ann Arbor AIDS Memorial Quilt Display Committee. "Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt"** (Robert Epstein & Jeffrey Friedman, 1989). See 16 Monday Events listing. Mich., 9:40 p.m.

18 WEDNESDAY

★**Forest Avenue School Choir: Arborland Mall.** Seasonal music by students from this Ypsilanti school. *10 a.m., Arborland Mall. Free. 971–1825.*

★**"Holiday Party": Northeast Senior Center.** Live entertainment, a birthday potluck (cake and ice cream served in honor of all who celebrate December birthdays) followed by an afternoon of card games and participatory music and dance programs. *11 a.m. (entertainment), noon (potluck), 1–3 p.m. (games), Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Free, but reservations requested. 996–0070.*

★**"Creating Art in China": U-M Museum of Art.** December 18 & 19. Hour-long documentary on contemporary painting, music, poetry, and prose in China. *12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Advent Concert Series: First Congregational Church.** See 4 Wednesday. Today: Organist Michele Johns, music director at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth, conducts the **Plymouth Bell Ringers** in a program of Christmas music for bells and organ. 12:15–12:45 p.m.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 4 Wednesday. 3:30–5:15 p.m.

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

"Punjab-Style Vegetarian Indian Cooking": People's Food Co-op. Cooking demonstration by Garin Horner, who studied Indian cuisine in Bombay, Baroda, and Delhi, as well as with Chef Oza at the Himalaya restaurent in Windsor. Samples, recipes. *7–9 p.m., People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. $3–$5 suggested donation. Preregistration required. 769–0095.*

★**Shamanic Journeys: Creation Spirituality.** See 4 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Folk Dancing: U-M Folk Dance Club.** See 4 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"Transformations: Personal and Planetary Healing": Network Healing Community.** See 4 Wednesday. Tonight: Alani Galbraith gives an **"Intro to Heart-Centered Transformational Body Work."** 8 p.m.

★**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Institute.** See 4 Wednesday. 8–10 p.m.

"The Harlem Nutcracker": Donald Byrd/The Group (University Musical Society). December 18–21. World premiere tour of this ballet inspired by Tchaikovsky's famous Christmas ballet. Ground-breaking choreographer Donald Byrd (a Detroit native) has transformed the Russian fairy tale into a story of an African-American family in Harlem. As the performance begins, Clara is an elderly grandmother alone on Christmas Eve with memories of her beloved late husband (the Nutcracker Prince). She is joined by children and grandchildren for a festive party, but soon her memories take her back to her youth, with a sequence in a glamorous 1930s dance hall. She moves forward in time through the Depression years and World War II, the civil rights movement, and the ensuing difficulties of African-Americans, including the widespread breakdown of family and community. The ballet concludes as death approaches and Clara is reunited with her husband on

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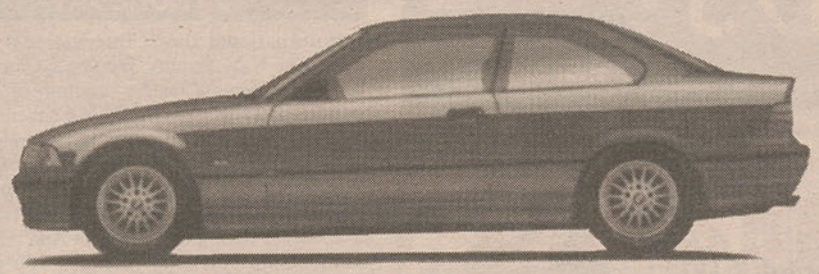

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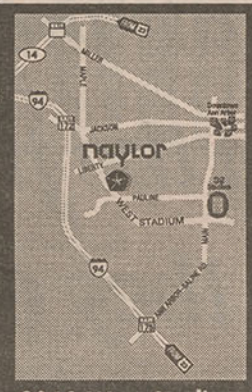

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EVENTS *continued*

Christmas Day, surrounded by a loving family. "I wanted to make something I could bring my grandmother to see," says Byrd. "The impulse was to create something that was family oriented and cross-generational . . . and when I say family, I'm also including the community."

"The Harlem Nutcracker," which was co-commissioned by UMS, brings together an impressive array of talents. Members of Byrd's acclaimed New York dance company, **The Group,** perform in a variety of styles from classical ballet to modern dance and hip-hop. The music is Duke Ellington's jazz arrangement of Tchaikovsky's score, with additional orchestration by former Ellington Orchestra member David Berger. **Marcus Belgrave** directs a jazz orchestra and a chorus made up of local gospel choirs, among them the **Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale,** the **Voices of Bethel,** and the **Flint Community Chorale.** *Note:* related events this month include an exhibit on the Harlem Renaissance at the Ann Arbor District Library (see 3 Tuesday). Also, poetry and prose readings (December 5, 7, & 14), a discussion of James Weldon Johnson's *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* (December 11), and a documentary film showing (December 17). *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $16–$28 (Sunday family matinee: adults $20, children $10) in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Invasion of the Improv": Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 4 Wednesday. 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Cyclo" (Tran Anh Hung, 1996). See 17 Tuesday. Mich., 7 p.m.

19 THURSDAY

★**"International Day": International Neighbors.** The U-M Faculty Women's Club Music Section presents a festive program of holiday instrumental and vocal music. All encouraged to bring a homemade ornament to decorate a tree to be donated to a local charity. International Neighbors is a 37-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Its membership currently includes 906 women from 81 countries. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *9:30–11 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church Piper Hall, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 663–6472, 995–0847.*

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** See 5 Thursday. This week's special programs: an educational film or speaker to be announced (10 a.m.), and Huron Valley Ambulance community relations assistant Michael Qualls discusses basic first aid procedures, HVA's "Para-Medic Alert" program, and issues of whether or not to take extraordinary measures to prolong life raised by so-called "limited care" policies (12:45 p.m.). 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

"Advent Noon Recital Series": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum. See 5 Thursday. Today: Susan Wilburn directs the **Sine Nomine Singers,** a local 24-voice women's chamber chorus, in a program of works by Faure, Handel, and Praetorius, along with Polish, French, Swedish, and Austrian carols. Noon–1 p.m.

★**Counterpoint: U-M Hospitals Gifts of Art.** Seasonal music performed by this chorus of U-M hospital employees. *12:10 p.m., University Hospital 1st-floor lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

Monthly Meeting: New Enterprise Forum. A chance for entrepreneurs, investors, and business service providers to explore common interests. Each meeting features a guest speaker discussing an entrepreneurial issue, showcase presentations by emerging companies, and an open forum in which entrepreneurs can introduce themselves and solicit help for their business needs. Refreshments. All invited. *5 p.m. (registration), 5:30 p.m. (meeting), Holiday Inn North, 3600 Plymouth Rd. $15 (members, free). 665–4434.*

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor–Motown Hash House Harriers.** See 1 Sunday. 6:30 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children and adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the ancient, elegant Japanese art of paper folding. Taught by local paper-folding expert Don Shall. *7–9:30 p.m., Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington at Eighth St. Free. 662–3394.*

★**Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall.** See 5 Thursday. Today, **Baffling Bill's Magic Show,** with magician Bill Shulert. 7 p.m.

★**Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor City Committee of the Republican Party.** Speaker and topic to be announced. All invited. *7:30 p.m., Washtenaw County Republican Party Headquarters, Packard Office Center, room 230, 3800 Packard Rd. Free. 971–4622.*

★**General Meeting: Ann Arbor Democratic Party.** Discussion topic to be announced. All invited. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 663–3921.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Barnes & Noble Writers' Group.** A 30-minute writing exercise, followed by short readings by the participants. Newcomers welcome. Free coffee. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. Registration requested. 677–6475.*

★**"Oz's Jazz Jam": Oz's Music.** All jazz musicians invited to bring their instruments and join a jam session hosted by woodwind player Michael Summerfield. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers: Arborland Mall.** This local barbershop quartet performs seasonal music. *7:30 p.m., Arborland Mall. Free. 971–1825.*

★**"Creating Art in China": U-M Museum of Art.** See 18 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers.** See 5 Thursday. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

"Open Jam": Griff's Jams. See 5 Thursday. 8–11 p.m.

"The Harlem Nutcracker": University Musical Society. See 18 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

John Heffron: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. December 19–21. A South Lyon native and EMU grad who is featured on WKQI's morning show in Detroit, Heffron specializes in observations about the indignities and absurdities of life from the point of view of children and young people. A local favorite since his days as a Mainstreet opening act. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $10 (members, $5) reserved seating in advance, $10 (members, free) general admission at the door. Memberships are $45 a year. 996–9080.*

FILMS

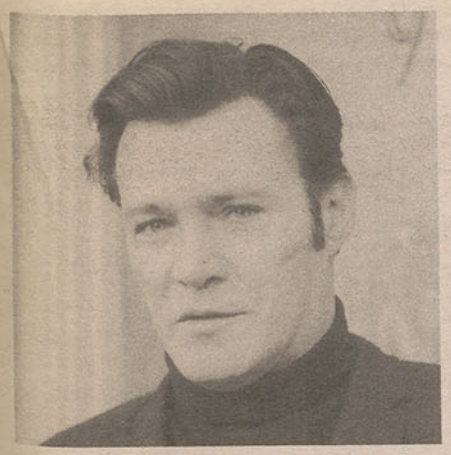
MTF. "Cyclo" (Tran Anh Hung, 1996). See 17 Tuesday. Mich., 7 p.m.

20 FRIDAY

Winter Opening: Rolling Hills County Park. Weather permitting, this popular outdoor facility opens for the season today, offering cross-country skiing, skating, and tobogganing (sleds and toboggans must be rented at the park). *2–8:30 p.m. (tobogganing starts at 4 p.m.), Rolling Hills County Park, 7669 Stony Creek Rd. (3 miles south of Ypsilanti between Bemis and Merritt). Beginning Dec. 21, open daily (except Dec. 24 & 25) 10 a.m.–8:30 p.m. Admission $2 (weekdays) & $6 (weekends) per car. Ski rentals $4–$5; toboggan rentals $1.50–$2. 484–SNOW.*

"Collecting Tea Pots": U-M Museum of Art "Tea at 3". UMMA docent Liz Yhouse discusses the traditions of English tea and displays some of her collection of antique tea pots, strainers, and linens. Zingerman's tea and pastries served. *3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. $5 (museum volunteers, free). 764–0395.*

★**Solstice Firewatch: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join in a Celtic ritual awaiting the solstice. Also, the Grove holds a



New York–based actor and U-M grad Brian Mallon performs "Secrets of the Celtic Heart," his award-winning one-man show about the spirit of Welsh poetry, Sun., Dec. 22, at the Ark.

family Yule celebration tomorrow (see listing). *Sunset, Botsford Recreational Preserve, 3015 Miller Rd. Free. 665–8428.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★Garrison Keillor: Barnes & Noble. This popular humorist and writer, who's in town for a live production of his popular "Prairie Home Companion" radio show (see 21 Saturday listing), is on hand to talk with his fans. *7–8 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★Frank Allison: PJ's Used Records & CDs "No Kick Drums Acoustic Concert Series." Live in-store performance by this talented and popular local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter who debuts his new band at the Blind Pig on New Year's Eve (see listing). *7–8 p.m., PJ's Used Records & CDs, 619 Packard (upstairs). Free. 663–3441.*

"A Christmas Carol": St. Andrew's Players. December 20 & 21. Nancy Heusel directs a stage adaptation of Charles Dickens's Christmas classic. Cast to be announced. Proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity. *7 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. $5 (children & seniors, $3). 663–0518.*

★Monthly Meeting: Professional Volunteer Corps. All singles 25 and older invited to join this organization that provides volunteers for various community projects. Each month, members vote on which service projects to sponsor and plan upcoming social outings. Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing and orientation for newcomers. *7:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 747–6801.*

★Monthly Meeting: Viva Ventures. All physically active seniors (age 50 and over) are welcome to join this group to plan hiking, biking, canoeing, camping, skiing, or white-water rafting excursions. Tonight's planning topics to be announced. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. For information, call Bud Tracy at 663–3077.*

★Monthly Meeting: University Lowbrow Astronomers. Speaker and topic to be announced. *7:30 p.m., 807 Dennison Hall, 501 East University. Free. 426–2363.*

★"Festive Friday Fun Night": Main Street Area Association. See 13 Friday. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

"The Harlem Nutcracker": University Musical Society. See 18 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

John Heffron: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 19 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

"Open Dance": Parents Without Partners. All divorced, widowed, separated, and never-married parents are welcome at this dance and social occasion. Recorded music played by a DJ from Dance Company. Cash bar. Preceded at 8 p.m. by line dance lessons ($1). All encouraged to bring a scarf or pair of mittens for a mitten tree to be donated to Peace Neighborhood Center. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $7 (PWP members, $5). 973–1933, 994–7855.*

Friday Dance Jam: People Dancing Studio. See 6 Friday. 10 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Jude" (Michael Winterbottom, 1996). December 20–22. Adaptation of Thomas Hardy's novel *Jude the Obscure.* Christopher Eccleston, Kate Winslet. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

21 SATURDAY

★Monthly Outreach Meeting: Ann Arbor Aglow. All women are welcome to join this international organization devoted to meeting women's spiritual needs. Meetings include coffee, socializing, and a brief time of praise and worship. No child care available. *9:15 a.m., Domino's Farms Ulrich Room, Lobby E, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. For information, call Jeannie at 761–1893.*

★"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 1 Sunday. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

★"Arb Walk": Cyberspace Communications. See 7 Saturday. 10 a.m.

"A Cold Winter's Night"/"The Four Seasons": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 14 Saturday. 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("A Cold Winter's Night"); 12:30 & 3:30 p.m. ("The Four Seasons").

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. See 7 Saturday. 11 a.m.

★"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company. See 7 Saturday. 11 a.m.

"Holiday Gift Workshops": Ann Arbor Art Center. See 7 Saturday. 1–4 p.m.

★Beverly Jenkins: Little Professor Book Company. This popular local romance writer, who specializes in historical novels with African-American protagonists, is on hand to discuss and autograph her latest romance, *Indigo. 2–4 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join a neopagan ritual celebrating the winter solstice. This year's ritual includes a special focus on children, with a gift exchange (bring a gift under $3, wrapped and tagged for age and gender), cookie exchange (bring 3 dozen cookies), and the making of popcorn and cranberry garlands. *2–5 p.m., Friends Meeting House, 1420 Hill St. Free (cookie exchange, $2). 665–8428.*

"The Harlem Nutcracker": University Musical Society. See 18 Wednesday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": St. Andrew's Players. See 20 Friday. 3 p.m.

Family Chess Club: Adventures in Chess. See 7 Saturday. 5–10 p.m.

"A Prairie Home Companion": Michigan Radio. Live broadcast of this beloved radio variety show hosted by writer, raconteur, and sometime singer **Garrison Keillor.** Heard by millions on public radio stations nationwide, "A Prairie Home Companion" began in 1974 as an exercise in nostalgia, an old-fashioned smorgasbord of music, humor, and minidrama that recalled the radio shows of yore, complete with spoof advertisements from sponsors such as Powdermilk Biscuits and American Duck Tape. One of the show's highlights is "the news from Lake Wobegon," in which Keillor spins tales of life in a tiny Minnesota town (based on his boyhood home) populated with earnest Lutherans and Swedish immigrants. It is Keillor's observations on the human condition that give the show its unique appeal—he ranges from gently poking fun at our universal foibles to rueful comments on his own passage into midlife to dark satire on everything from politics to the enduring conflicts between men and women.

Tonight's performers include PHC regulars **Tom Keith** ("the sound-effects man"), the **Guys' All-Star Shoe Band,** and celebrity-voice imitator **Tim Russell,** as well as local talent to be announced. Patron tickets ($125) include preferential seating and admission to a post-show reception with Keillor. ***Note:*** Tickets to

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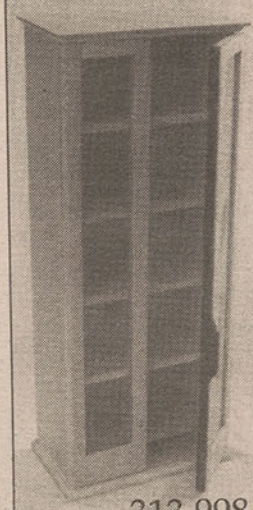

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17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Publisher — Date: November 5, 1996

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

EVENTS *continued*

this show are being offered to Michigan Radio members; any remaining tickets are expected to sell out well in advance. *5:40 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $23–$125 in advance by calling 764–3434. $5 discount for those purchasing tickets to both tonight's event and the "Jazz Revisited" concert on Dec. 31.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

"Winter Family Solstice and Hike": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Singing around a campfire with **Wanita Forgacs,** a local folksinger who accompanies herself on guitar, mountain dulcimer, and psaltery. Followed by a candle-lit hike. *7–8:30 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $4 (families, $15). Preregistration required. 662–7802.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Country Dancers. Live music by **Paul Winder & Friends,** with popular local caller Robin Warner. All dances taught; beginners welcome. No partner necessary. *8–11:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $6. 662–3371.*

Pat Donohoe: The Ark. Acclaimed as a "major artist in contemporary acoustic music" by *Frets* magazine, Donohoe is a finger-picking guitar virtuoso known for the technical perfection and interpretive tact he brings to blues, country, jazz, and swing idioms. "His genre-bending approach fuses the right-hand Piedmont fingerstyle of Blind Blake and Blind Boy Fuller with the harmonic vocabulary of Charlie Christian and Wes Montgomery," says *Guitar Player* critic Kevin Ransom. Donohoe has a strong, sweet voice and is an engagingly unpretentious performer. A local favorite ever since he stole the show at the 1991 Ann Arbor Folk Festival. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $11 (members, students, & seniors, $10) at the door only. 761–1451.*

"The Harlem Nutcracker": University Musical Society. See 18 Wednesday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Apartment 3A": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

John Heffron: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 19 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Jude" (Michael Winterbottom, 1996). See 20 Friday. Mich., 7 & 9:30 p.m.

22 SUNDAY

★"Cum Nuovo Cantico": First Presbyterian Church Festival Sunday. First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn conducts the church's Chancel Choir in this cantata built on carols by the contemporary American composer (and U-M grad) Gerald Near. *9:30 & 11 a.m. worship services, First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. See 1 Sunday. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

★First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. See 1 Sunday. Today's program to be announced. 10:30 a.m.

★Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program. See 1 Sunday. 12:30–3:30 p.m.

★"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 1 Sunday. 1 p.m.

★"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio. See 1 Sunday. 1 p.m.

Garrison Keillor: Borders Books and Music. The popular writer, humorist, and radio personality, who broadcast "A Prairie Home Companion" live from Ann Arbor last night (see listing), signs copies of *The Sandy Bottom Orchestra,* the recently published children's book he co-authored with his wife, Jenny Lind Nilsson. *1–3 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668–7652.*

"A Cold Winter's Night"/"The Four Seasons": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 14 Saturday. 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("A Cold Winter's Night"); 3:30 p.m. ("The Four Seasons").

★Sunday Tour: U-M Museum of Art. See 1 Sunday. Today: **"Common Ground."** 2 p.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall. See 5 Thursday. Today, holiday songs by the **Ebenezer Good Time Singers.** 2:30 p.m.

★Ann Arbor–Motown Hash House Harriers. See 1 Sunday. 3 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. See 1 Sunday. 7–9:30 p.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Independent Filmmakers Forum. A business meeting, followed by a "Screenwriters Forum," in which participants discuss and get feedback on their work. All invited. *7:30 p.m., Espresso Royale Caffe, 214 S. Main. Free. 668–1628.*

"Secrets of the Celtic Heart": The Ark. New York–based actor (and U-M grad) **Brian Mallon** stars in his award-winning one-man show portraying the spirit of Welsh poetry as a single mythical life that stretches 3000 years from druid to bard to Dylan Thomas and other modern Welsh poets. With original music by composer Jonathan Sacks and several traditional songs in Welsh and English. This production originated at the Actors Studio in New York under the direction of Oscar-winning actress Ellen Burstyn. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

MTF. "Jude" (Michael Winterbottom, 1996). See 20 Friday. Mich., 4:30 & 7 p.m.

23 MONDAY

★"A Little Princess": Ann Arbor District Library. Showing of Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuaron's 1995 remake of the 1939 Shirley Temple classic, an adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's *Sara Crewe.* After the death of her beloved father, a young girl is sent to an orphanage where she uses her imagination and the help of new friends to survive. Stars Liesel Matthews, Eleanor Bron, and Liam Cunningham. Recommended for kids ages 6 & older. *10 a.m. & 7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–2345.*

★Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army. See 2 Monday. 10:30 a.m.–noon.

★Women's Book Group: Guild House. See 9 Monday. Noon–1 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★Biweekly Meeting: Working Writers Group. See 9 Monday. 7–9 p.m.

24 TUESDAY

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks Department. December 24 & 31. Skating to music by a DJ, for adults (11 a.m.–1 p.m.) & youths (1–5 p.m.). *11 a.m.–5 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $4 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, $3.25). Skate rentals available ($1.75). 761–7240.*

★Christmas Eve Concerts: Zion Lutheran Church. The church offers several special musical programs today featuring choirs, handbells, and a flute choir. Includes children's choirs (3 p.m.), youth and high school choirs (5 p.m.), and adult choirs (11 p.m.). Also, a string trio performs prior to the 11 p.m. service (about 10:30 p.m.). *3, 5, & 11 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free will offering. 994–4455.*

★"Lessons and Carols": First Presbyterian Church. The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, an-

country music

Matraca Berg

The iron discipline of commercialism

Its phrases are on the lips of every woman I know who likes country music, and of a few random strangers I've asked as well. "Strawberry Wine" is the country song of the moment. It's a mature woman's recollection of a passionate summer romance in her youth:

I was caught somewhere
between a woman and a child
One reckless summer we found
love growing wild.

Strawberry wine
Seventeen
The hot July moon
Saw everything.

Someone named Deana Carter sings it, but Matraca Berg composed it.

Women songwriters have drawn many of country music's new listeners to the form, and Berg is one of Nashville's foremost. Quite a list of her songs have roosted at number one over the past few years. She writes straight country pop that aims for huge cross-sections of the American population—"She used to tie her hair up in ribbons and bows / Signed her letters with X's and O's"—and she can turn an irresistible pop phrase: "There's a man in a Stetson hat / Howlin' like an alley cat / Outside my window tonight. / Sayin' 'Baby, put on somethin' hot, / Meet me in the parking lot / About a quarter to nine.' "

I wouldn't have thought anyone could interest me in a song about angels. But a huge Berg hit recorded by Martina McBride has a riveting image:

Between the perfect world and the
bottom line,
Keeping love alive in this troubled
time—
It's a miracle in itself . . .

Must have been wild angels,
Wild angels,
Watching over you and me.
Wild angels—
Baby, what else could it be?

Search around the contemporary CD's in the country bins and you'll find other Berg compositions, even a few she has recorded herself. Like many Nashville songwriters Berg is striving for a performing career of her own. Her 1993 CD, "The Speed of Grace," is typical of many songwriters' albums. Eschewing the supposedly restrictive forms of hot new country, Berg tries for intense blues rock. It's not bad, and some of it might even bear comparison with John Hiatt or Bonnie Raitt, but she doesn't do anything that hasn't been done well already.

Matraca Berg will visit the Ark on December 29 as the opening act for Jimmie Dale Gilmore. Will she bring to her concert her own personal musical ambitions? Or will we hear the country song of the moment?

—James M. Manheim

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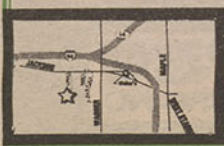

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thems, and hymns performed by the church's choirs. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. *5:30 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★Family Candlelight Service: Northside Community Church. Harold Haugh narrates and Martin Katz provides piano accompaniment for this retelling of the Christmas story, as children place figures into a Nativity scene. Includes scripture readings, carol singing, and a congregational singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight. *6 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton. Free. 663–0677.*

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★27th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church. A candlelight service of readings and carols sung by the church choir and congregation, based on the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Hugh Ferguson Floyd directs; organist is Janice Beck. *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.*

FILMS

No films.

25 WEDNESDAY (Christmas)

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Vertigo" (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958). December 25–31. Newly restored 70mm release of this dark masterpiece of suspense. James Stewart, Kim Novak. Mich., 5:30 & 8:15 p.m.

26 THURSDAY

★"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble. See 4 Wednesday. 11 a.m.

★Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Communi-

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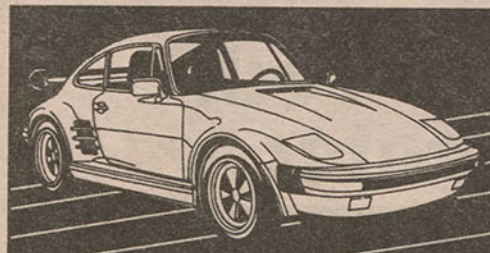

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EVENTS *continued*

ty Center. See 5 Thursday. Today is **"Family Day."** All seniors invited to bring their families & friends for snacks, a movie, games, & crafts. 1–3 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

★Biweekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Go Club. See 12 Thursday. 7:30–9 p.m.

★Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. See 5 Thursday. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

★"Oz's Acoustic Jam": Oz's Music. All acoustic musicians invited to bring their instruments and join a jam session hosted by Mike Northrup. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.*

"Open Jam": Griff's Jams. See 5 Thursday. 8–11 p.m.

Blair Shannon: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. December 26–29 & 31. This up-and-coming New York City comic blends acute observational humor with off-the-wall musical parodies of everyone from Frank Sinatra to Louis Armstrong. A favorite with Mainstreet audiences. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $12 (members, $6) reserved seating in advance, $12 (members, free) general admission at the door. New Year's Eve: $22.50 (early show) & $27.50 (late show, includes champagne & party favors). Memberships are $45 a year. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Vertigo" (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958). See 25 Wednesday. Mich., 3:45, 6:30, & 9:15 p.m.

27 FRIDAY

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 8 p.m.

Blair Shannon: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Vertigo" (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958). See 25 Wednesday. Mich., 6:30, 9:15, & 11:50 p.m.

28 SATURDAY

★"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 1 Sunday. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

★"Arb Walk": Cyberspace Communications. See 7 Saturday. 10 a.m.

"A Cold Winter's Night"/"The Four Seasons": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 14 Saturday. 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("A Cold Winter's Night"); 12:30 & 3:30 p.m. ("The Four Seasons").

★"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company. See 7 Saturday. 11 a.m.

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. See 7 Saturday. 11 a.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

★Ann Arbor–Motown Hash House Harriers. See 1 Sunday. 3 p.m.

Family Chess Club: Adventures in Chess. See 7 Saturday. 5–10 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

Swingin' A's Square Dance Club. See 14 Saturday. 7:30–10:30 p.m.

English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Erna-Lynne Bogue and Don Theyken call traditional dances from England, with live music. All dances taught; new dancers welcome. No partner necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and casual clothes. Also, at 2 p.m. this afternoon, Bogue leads a workshop on **"Early Modern English Dances"** ($4) for experienced dancers. *8–11 p.m., Webster Community Hall, across from Webster Church on Webster Church Rd. (1 mile south of North Territorial), Dexter. $6. 663–0744.*

"Invitation to the Dance": Two Part Invention. Solo and duo dance music arranged for harp by **Lynne Aspnes** and **John Wickey,** two award-winning area harpists who also offer sometimes humorous commentary on the history of their instrument. They are joined by mezzo-soprano **Deanna Relyea** for a performance of the Spanish Dances from Manuel de Falla's "Seven Popular Songs." Also on the program: Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor, Tchaikovsky's "Waltz of the Flowers" (from the "Nutcracker Suite"), and Massenet's "Le Cid." *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $8 & $12 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

George Bedard & the Kingpins, Cub Koda, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown: The Ark. Blues & rockabilly extravaganza featuring the all-star collaboration of several Ann Arbor–bred roots-rock musicians. A trio led by guitar genius Bedard and featuring bassist Randy Tessier and drummer Rich Dishman, the Kingpins have been Ann Arbor's—and one of the country's—best honky-tonk dance bands for nearly a decade. Their new CD is due out on the Schoolkids' label this month. Dubbed "America's greatest houserocker" by best-selling horror novelist Stephen King, Cub Koda is the former leader of Brownsville Station, the Ann Arbor–based early 70s rock group best known for its hit single "Smokin' in the Boys Room." His most recent CD, "Abba Dabba Dabba: A Bananza of Hits," was also released on the Schoolkids' label. An Ann Arbor native who first gained fame as the guitarist in Commander Cody's Lost Planet Airmen, Kirchen plays a rowdy mix of rockabilly, honky-tonk, blues, swing, and truck-driving songs. Brown is an Ann Arbor native who in the late 70s moved to Austin, Texas, where she plays in several blues bands and regularly wins the *Austin Chronicle* award as the city's best bassist. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

Blair Shannon: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Vertigo" (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958). See 25 Wednesday. Mich., 5:30, 8:15, & 10:50 p.m.

29 SUNDAY

★First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. See 1 Sunday. Today's program to be announced. 10:30 a.m.

★Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program. See 1 Sunday. 12:30–3:30 p.m.

★"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 1 Sunday. 1 p.m.

★"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio. See 1 Sunday. 1 p.m.

"A Cold Winter's Night"/"The Four Seasons": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 14 Saturday. 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. ("A Cold Winter's Night"); 3:30 p.m. ("The Four Seasons").

★Sunday Tour: U-M Museum of Art. See 1 Sunday. Today: **"Images d'Epinal."** 2 p.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. See 1 Sunday. 7–9:30 p.m.

"The Silent Princess": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 13 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

Jimmie Dale Gilmore: The Ark. Gilmore is one of the best of a large crop of neo-traditionalist folk-country stars, mainly because the country traditions he adheres to conserve their most extravagantly primal yearnings. Where Garth Brooks always sounds as if he's singing to the entire assembled population of North America, Gilmore's singing conjures images of an audience at once vaster and emptier, like some honky-tonk monk serenading coyotes and the wind. As a songwriter, he possesses a wonderfully offhand flair for lyrical flights that are sometimes poetic, sometimes unsettling in their extremity, and sometimes both, and he sings with a pinched nasal intensity that can put your nerves pleasantly on edge. The songs on his superb new CD, "Braver, Newer World," blend his trademark otherworldliness with the over-the-top dynamics and vocal stylings of Gene Pitney, Roy Orbison, and other early post-rockabilly rock 'n' roll balladeers. Opening act is **Matraca Berg** *(see review, p. 139)*, a Nashville singer-songwriter who has written several top country hits, from Martina McBride's "Wild Angels" to Deana Carter's current hit "Strawberry Wine." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Blair Shannon: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Vertigo" (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958). See 25 Wednesday. Mich., 2:45, 5:30, & 8:15 p.m.

30 MONDAY

★**"Balto": Ann Arbor District Library.** Showing of Simon Wells's 1995 animated feature based on the true story of a half-husky, half-wolf who lead a team of sled dogs through a blizzard to deliver lifesaving antitoxin to Nome, Alaska. With the voices of Bob Hoskins, Kevin Anderson, and Jennifer Blanc. Recommended for kids ages 6 & older. *10 a.m. & 7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–2345.*

★**Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** See 2 Monday. 10:30 a.m.–noon.

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

Beausoleil: The Ark. Led by fiddler Michael Doucet, Beausoleil is one of the most influential bands in the revival of interest in the Cajun music of French Louisiana. Their repertoire includes everything from Cajun, Creole, and medieval French music to zydeco, New Orleans jazz, island rhythms, and Southern boogie. A big favorite with local audiences. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

MTF. "Vertigo" (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958). See 25 Wednesday. Mich., 3:45, 6:30, & 9:15 p.m.

31 TUESDAY (New Year's Eve)

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 24 Tuesday. 11 a.m.–1 p.m. (adults) & 1–5 p.m. (youths).

★**9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau.** See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

1996 Christmas Light Display: Christmas Celebration Inc. See 1 Sunday. 6–10 p.m.

5th Annual "New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. *See review, p. 97.* An alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration featuring numerous local entertainment acts in and around Ypsilanti's Riverside Park, where the **Festival of Lights** (see 1 Friday) concludes at midnight tonight. Kids' entertainers include comedian and mime **O. J. Anderson,** the male vocal quartet **Three Men and a Tenor,** folksinger **Sheila Ritter,** the **JJ Magic Club,** the **Go Tell puppets, Wild Swan Theater,** storyteller **LaRon Williams,** and gymnastics by **Gym Masters.** For grown-up tastes, there's the **Jubilee Chamber Players, Our Lady's Madrigal Singers,** folk by **Mulligan Stew,** jazz and boogie-woogie pianist **Mr. B,** rockabilly by **George Bedard & the Kingpins,** reggae by **Nite Flite,** the flute and harp duo **Divertimente,** jazz by saxophonist **Paul Vornhagen,** and a contra and square dance. Food concessions. *6:30 p.m.–midnight, various Ypsilanti locations. Admission badges $10 in advance, $15 at the door. Children ages 6–12, $5 (children 5 & under, free). Badges available beginning Dec. 13 at Busch's Valu Land stores and the Ypsilanti Visitors and Convention Bureau. For information and a detailed schedule of events, call 483–4444.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Ferris State. *7 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. Sold out. 764–0247.*

★**"Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind": Zen Buddhist Temple.** New Year's Eve candle-lighting ceremony conducted by local dharma teacher Parang Larkin Willis. *7 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free. 761–6520.*

Contrapreneurs' New Year's Eve Dance. Contra, swing, and couple dancing to live music by the Contrapreneurs. Callers are Don Theyken and Peter Baker. Beginners welcome; all dances taught. No partner necessary. Refreshments. *8 p.m.–late, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $15. Space limited; reservations required. 662–3715, (810) 698–9527.*

5th Annual New Year's Eve "Jazz Revisited" Concert: Michigan Radio. WUOM radio personality **Hazen Schumacher** and the nationally acclaimed **James Dapogny Chicago Jazz Band** led by U-M piano professor Dapogny once again host a swinging evening of jazz and blues to welcome in the New Year. Special guests this year are singer-actress **Topsy Chapman,** known for her starring role in the off-Broadway show "One Mo' Time," and pianist **Butch Thompson,** former house pianist for the "Prairie Home Companion" radio show, an incomparable performer with a formidable repertoire that virtually spans the history of jazz. After the performance, concertgoers can continue the festivities at a party at the Gandy Dancer ($5; reservations required). *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $23 ($5 discount for those also purchasing tickets for the Dec. 21 "A Prairie Home Companion" broadcast) in advance by calling 764–3434.*

Blair Shannon: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"New Year's Eve Open Dance": Parents Without Partners. All divorced, widowed, separated, and never-married parents are welcome at this dance and social occasion. Recorded music played by a DJ from Imperial Sound. Cash bar. Admission price includes party favors and breakfast. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. Tickets $20 in advance, $15 at the door. 973–1933, 994–7855.*

Ron Brooks & Friends: Bird of Paradise. A guest jazz vocalist to be announced is backed by a trio led by bassist (and Bird of Paradise co-owner) Brooks and featuring drummer George Davidson and pianist Jim Lee. *9:30 p.m.–2:30 a.m., Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets $40 (couples, $75) includes buffet dinner, champagne toast, and party favors, in advance and at the door. 662–8310.*

Big Dave and the Ultrasonics: Rick's American Cafe. High-powered, brightly polished blues and blues-rock by this popular local band led by vocalist and guitarist Dave Steele. *10 p.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church St. $8 (couples, $15) at the door only. 996–2747.*

Frank Allison & the Odd Sox: The Blind Pig. Scruffy, smart-mouthed utopian playground rock 'n' roll by this extremely popular local band led by singer-songwriter (and funny-face maker) Allison. Tonight's show is the debut of the band's all-new lineup with guitarist Dave Roof, bassist Rich Griffith, and drummer Will Osler. *10 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $9 at the door only. 996–8555.*

FILMS

MTF. "Vertigo" (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958). See 25 Wednesday. Mich., 5:30 & 8:15 p.m.

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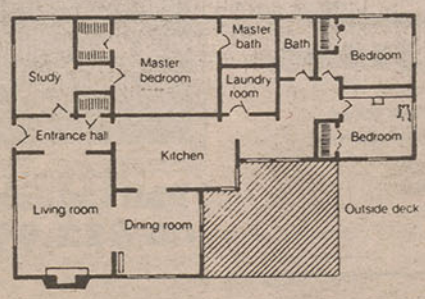

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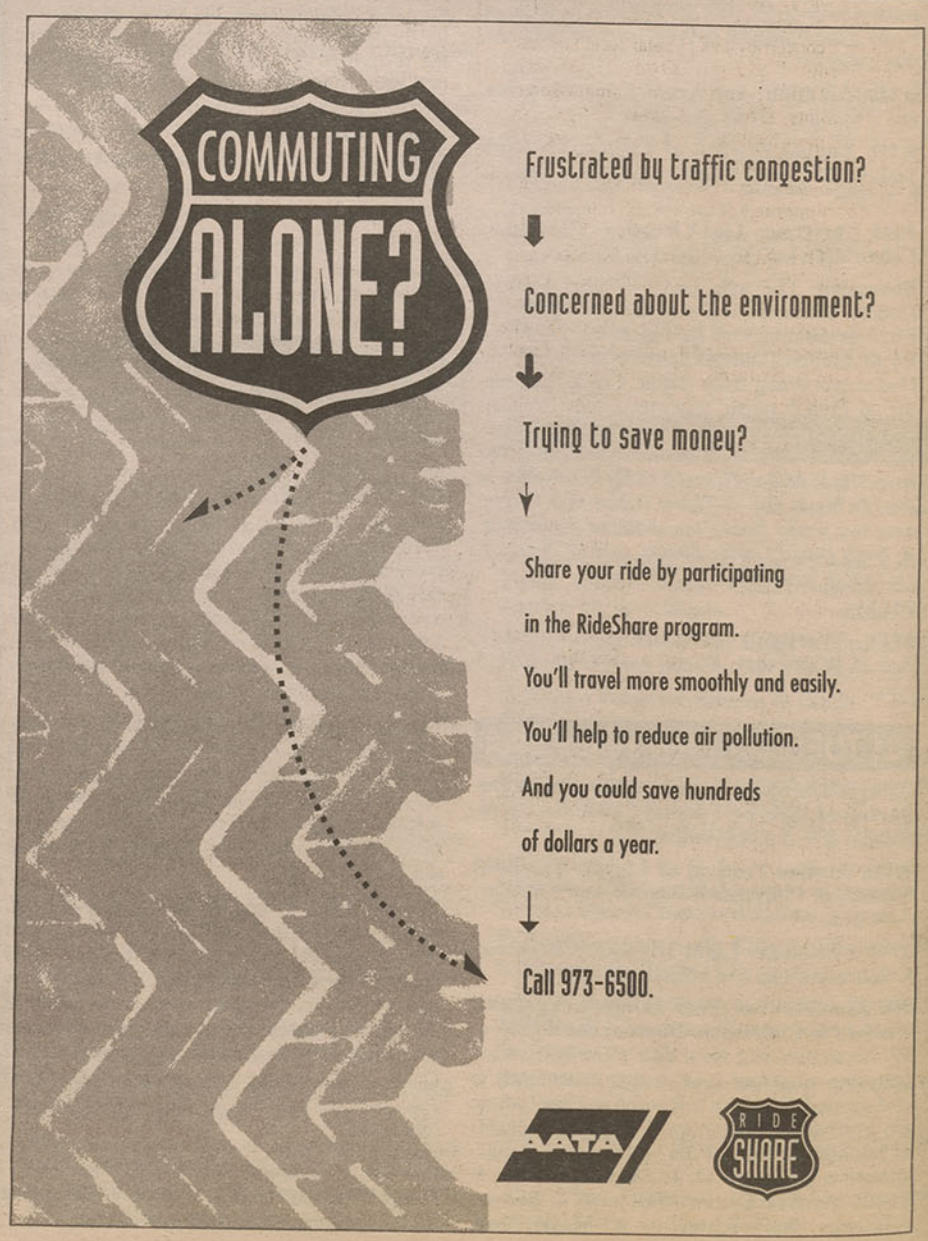
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MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who will be playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Arbor Brewing Company

116 E. Washington 213–1393

This downtown brewpub features live music on Sundays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Reggae and World Music.** Live bands to be announced. 9 p.m.–1 a.m. **Every Tues.** (except December 24 & 31)**: Audition Night.** Live bands to be announced. 9–11 p.m. **Every Wed.** (except December 25)**: Ann Arbor Irish Ensemble.** Traditional Irish reels, jigs, and acoustic folk. 8:30–11:30 p.m. **Every Thurs.** (except December 12)**: Al Hill Trio.** Blues, R&B, New Orleans funk, and rock 'n' roll by a trio led by this local veteran, a strong vocalist who accompanies himself on guitar and piano. 10 p.m.–1 a.m. **New Year's Eve:** Live band to be announced. 10 p.m.–2 a.m.

The Ark

316 S. Main 761–1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music, The Ark has finally made its long-awaited move to bigger and better digs on the second floor of one of the buildings that used to house Kline's department store. Cover (usually $9–$11), no dancing. Discounts (usually $1) on cover for members ($15/year; families, $25/year). All shows begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Ticket sales: If a sellout is anticipated, advance tickets are sold and (occasionally) two shows are scheduled. Otherwise, tickets are available at the door only. **Dec. 1: Gemini.** Children's concert by this popular local acoustic duo. See Events. 1 & 3 p.m. **Dec. 3: Gillian Welch.** Acclaimed young country singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 4: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. The first 12 acts to sign up beginning at 7:30 p.m. get to perform. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). **Dec. 5: "All-Star Benefit Concert": The Ark.** Thirteen of the area's top musicians gather for an evening of pop, rock, blues, and folk to benefit the 2,000 striking *Detroit Free Press* and *Detroit News* workers. With **Dick Siegel, Frank Allison, Jay Stielstra, Lisa Hunter, Chris Buhalis, Drivetrain, K. C. Groves, Brian Lillie, Rollie Tussing III, Jo Serrapere, Audrey Becker, David Mosher, and Jere Stormer.** See Events. **Dec. 6: RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have released three LPs, appeared in numerous festivals, and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-song dialogue. Schoolkids' recently released "Live and Unrehearsed," a CD collection of the band's 1994 Ark performances. **Dec. 7: Tom Paxton.** Veteran folkie singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 8: "Shape Note Singing."** All invited to sing sacred harp songs. See Events. 3–5 p.m. **Dec. 8: Martin Sexton.** Acclaimed young singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 11: Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys.** Cajun band from Louisiana. See Events. **Dec. 12: "Voices of Winter: Herdman, Hills, & Mangsen."** All-star female vocal trio. See Events. **Dec. 13: Sally Fingerett.** Folk-pop singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 14: Joel Mabus.** Multi-instrumental folkie singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 20: RFD Boys.** See above. **Dec. 21: Pat Donohoe.** Acclaimed acoustic guitarist. See Events. **Dec. 22: "Secrets of the Celtic Heart."** Actor **Brian Mallon** stars in his one-man show. See Events. **Dec. 28: George Bedard & the Kingpins, Cub Koda, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown.** Blues & rockabilly extravaganza featuring the all-star collaboration of several Ann Arbor–bred roots-rock musicians. See Events. **Dec. 29: Jimmie Dale Gilmore.** Veteran Texas singer-songwriter. With Nashville singer-songwriter **Matraca Berg.** See Events. **Dec. 30: Beausoleil.** Acclaimed Cajun band. See Events.

nightspots

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Getaway Cruiser

The buzz is out

Getaway Cruiser is a great name for a band. It sounds like the title of a 1970's exploitation film filled with big money scores and car chase scenes. After seeing the name in the paper for a couple of weeks, I decided to mosey on down to the Blind Pig and find out what the group was all about.

The crowd at the Pig was young and restless. There were plenty of mod haircuts and the 1970's-retro striped racing jackets that have replaced flannel as the indie-cool uniform. I noticed a woman in a purple "flip" wig and platforms, looking like an extra from the party scene in "Midnight Cowboy." She turned out to be Cruiser singer Dina Harrison. As she and the band took the stage, the expanding throng of devotees moved immediately to the front. The buzz is definitely out on these guys.

Comprised of Harrison on lead vocals, Mark Dundon on bass, Dan Carrol on drums, and brothers Chris and Drew Peters on guitars (as well as a vast assortment of other instruments), Getaway Cruiser has a refreshingly original act. When I saw them early this fall, the band was a scant four months old, but they already had a lush, fully developed sound that both embraces and transcends pop sensibility.

Harrison has an almost Deborah Harry–esque presence as she stands perfectly still, the band creeping, slithering, and lowering the sonic boom behind her. Their sound plays heavily on dynamics and textures that are accented by the "musical chairs" instrument selections of the Peters brothers—harmonicas, accordions, tape loops, and turntables all find their way into the mix. Some of the band's strongest moments come when Drew Peters chimes in on backup vocals, as in the song "Don't Like." The harmonies are pure pop magic.

Visually, Getaway Cruiser is fairly stripped-down. There are no flash pots or smoke machines, nobody jumps over the drum set or dives into the audience—they don't have to. Their sound sends out a serious vibe, and the songs themselves (cowritten by the entire band) are action-packed. That's all that this crowd needs. The young hipsters are rapt . . . and so am I.

Getaway Cruiser opens for Charm Farm at the Blind Pig on Saturday, December 7.

—Wendy Case

Ashley's

338 S. State 996–9191

This downtown restaurant features live music in its underground pub on Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10 p.m.–1 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 3: Harsh Grubbin'.** Local surf-rock band. **Dec. 7: Ramshackle.** Local rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 10: South Normal.** Popular local rock 'n' roll quartet known for its tight arrangements, imaginatively varied rhythms, garage-band versatility, and slacker attitude. Opening act to be announced. **Dec. 14: Ladderjack.** Local rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 17: Marco Bruschtein.** Acoustic, slide, and electric guitar tunes by this Pete Moss & the Fungis guitarist. **Dec. 21: Steve Leggett & the Buzzrats.** Popular local poet and songwriter whose folksy lyrics and gravelly voice have drawn comparisons to Bob Dylan. Leggett is backed by percussionist Charlie Murphy, and guitarist Vino Veasley.

Bird of Paradise

207 S. Ashley 662–8310

Intimate jazz club co-owned by prominent jazz bassist Ron Brooks. Live music seven nights a week, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (Fri.–Mon.) & 8 p.m.–midnight (Tues.–Thurs.). Cover (unless otherwise noted), no dancing. **Every Fri.** (5–8 p.m.)**: E-Z Street Sextet.** Dixieland, swing, and some bop by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. No cover. **Every Sun.** (6–9 p.m.)**: U-M Big Band.** Vintage big band music by this U-M music-student ensemble. No cover. **Every Sun.** (9 p.m.–1 a.m.)**: Paul Finkbeiner & Friends.** Popular, high-energy jam session led by trumpeter Finkbeiner. No cover. **Every Mon.: Bird of Paradise Orchestra.** 14-piece ensemble organized by bassists Ron Brooks and Paul Keller to showcase original compositions and arrangements by musicians from southeastern Michigan. The varying lineup includes local and area jazz musicians. The group has a new Schoolkids' CD, "Project X." **Every Tues.** (except December 24 & 31)**: Acid Jazz Night.** A DJ spins acid jazz and hip-hop records. **Every Wed. & Thurs.** (except December 5 & 25)**: Ron Brooks Trio.** One of the state's finest jazz bassists, club co-owner Brooks is joined by pianist Rick Roe (and occasionally U-M music professor Ellen Rowe) and drummer Pete Siers. **Dec. 5–7: Johnny O'Neal & Friends.** Full-bodied blues- and gospel-inflected jazz by an ensemble led by this veteran Detroit pianist and vocalist who currently lives in Atlanta. O'Neal has played with the likes of Milt Jackson, Art Blakey, and Wynton Marsalis. **Dec. 13 & 14: "Christmas Celebration."** With a jazz ensemble and assorted drop-in guests to be announced. **Dec. 20 & 21: The Keller-Kocher Quartet.** Mainstream jazz by this top-notch local quartet featuring bassist Paul Keller, vibes player Cary Kocher, pianist Phil Kelly, and drummer Pete Siers. **Dec. 27 & 28: Ron Brooks Trio.** See above. **New Year's Eve: Ron Brooks & Friends.** A guest vocalist to be announced is backed by a trio led by bassist Brooks and featuring drummer George Davidson and pianist Jim Lee.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. 996–8555

This local music club features live music six nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., and a blues jam on Sundays, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Closed Mondays. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.** (6–9 p.m.)**: Jim Tate Band.** Versatile honky-tonk band led by singer-guitarist Tate, a longtime local favorite. The band's huge repertoire includes blues, country, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and R&B. The lineup of local veterans includes bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and guitarist Danny McIntire. **Every Sun.: Ann Arbor Bluestage.** All blues musicians invited to join a jam session that usually features performances by several local blues luminaries and forays into country, funk, soul, and rootsy rock 'n' roll. Hosted by the **Terraplanes,** a local blues-rock band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack, with guitarists Pete Bullard and Johnny Rasmussen, harmonica player Dave Cavender, bassist Jim Rasmussen, and drummer Gary Goodman. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. **Dec. 3: Open Mike.** All bands and solo performers invited. **Dec. 4: Enchanted Iris.** See Rick's. Opening act is **M.K.R.,** a local jazz-based acoustic trio that blends a wide range of styles and a quirky humor. With two Drivetrain members—bassist Adam Roberts and guitarist Dan Marcus—and drummer Andrew Kitchen. **Dec. 5: Baked Potato.** Local alternative rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 6: Butterfly.** Very popular local band that plays groovy, Sly Stone–style soul music. Opening act is the **Immigrant Suns,** a Detroit ensemble led by Albanian-born songwriter-guitarist Djeto Juncaj that plays folk-rock originals with an East European flavor. **Dec. 7: Charm Farm.** Funky, groove-oriented glam-rock by this Detroit band. Opening act is **Getaway Cruiser** *(see review, above),* a local band that plays dark, melodic pop and features somewhat eclectic instrumentation. Led by vocalist Dina Harrison, it includes three members of whirlingRoad. **Dec. 10: Backseat Joyride.** 12-piece local funk-rock band featuring former members of the Bucket and four female singers that plays horn-driven party music in the tradition of early James Brown and Funkadelic. **Dec. 11: Data Cadet.** Noisy, rhythmic experimental rock 'n' roll by this local quartet that features guitars, synthesizers, and an occasional trumpet or electronic toy for special effects. Opening acts are **Transmission,** a local band that plays avant-garde free jazz, and off-beat original songs by **Bob the Singing Bass Player** from Ypsilanti. **Dec. 12: The Deterants** Local guitar-based alternative rock 'n' roll band that plays originals and covers. Opening acts

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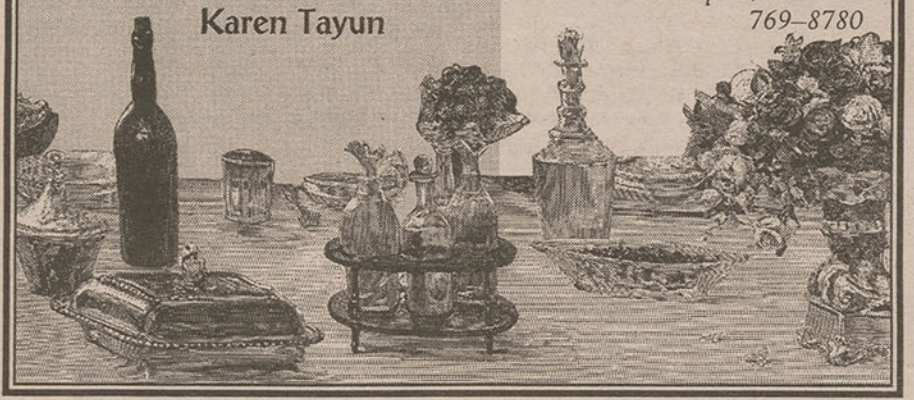

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are two melodic pop-punk bands from New York City, **Dryer** and **Tugboat Annie. Dec. 13: Harm's Way,** a local hardcore trio fronted by two rappers. **Dec. 14: The Why Store.** Semi-acoustic grunge-flavored roots-rock quintet from Muncie, Indiana. See Events. **Dec. 17: Open Mike.** See above. **Dec. 18: Deep Space Six.** See Rick's. **Dec. 19: Knee Deep Shag.** Blues-based rock 'n' roll band from Kalamazoo. Opening act is **Daddy Longlegs** (see Cross Street). **Dec. 20: Botfly.** Popular neo-hippie band from East Lansing. Opening act to be announced. **Dec. 21: The Holy Cows.** Chelsea band that plays stirring, inventively melodic guitar-based garage-rock. "Get Along," the band's Big Pop CD, has been getting air-play on Detroit rock radio, as well as critical acclaim around the country. Opening act is **19 Wheels,** a rock 'n' roll band from East Lansing led by former Hannibals vocalist Chris Johnston. **Dec. 23: "Christmas Party."** With the **Jim Tate Band** (see above). Doors open at 8 p.m. **Dec. 24 & 25:** Closed. **Dec. 26 & 27:** To be announced. **Dec. 28: "Townie Night."** Headliner is **GQ & the Cosmik Rayz,** a local blues and R&B band led by guitarist Gary Quackenbush. Opening act is the **Terraplanes** (see above). **New Year's Eve: Frank Allison & the Odd Sox.** Very popular local rock 'n' roll band. See Events.

Cafe Zola

112 W. Washington 769–2020

This downtown cafe features live music every Friday 9–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 6: Firebird Balalaika Ensemble.** Traditional Russian and East European folk music by this small ensemble drawn from the Detroit Balalaika Orchestra. **Dec. 13: The Second Hand String Band.** New local acoustic ensemble featuring former Deadbeat Society singer-guitarist David Mosher and three members of Drivetrain. **Dec. 20: Five Guys Named Moe.** An eclectic mix of styles and genres by this local acoustic swing ensemble. Members are vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Myron Grant, bassist Glenn Bering, fiddler Mary Seelhorst, drummer Eric Nyhuis, and guitarist Jake Reichbart. **Dec. 27: Lisa Hunter & Friends.** Funky, melodic folk-based pop-rock sung in a sharp, clear voice by this local singer-songwriter, who performs tonight with a trio.

Cava Java

1101 South University 741–5282

This campus-area coffee shop features live music downstairs, every Friday & Saturday, 9:30 p.m.–midnight. Cover, no dancing. No smoking. No music in December.

City Limits

2900 Jackson Rd. 665–4444

Lounge at the Clarion Hotel. Dance bands on weekends, jam sessions on Wednesdays, and a DJ on Thursdays. 8:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. **Every Thurs.: Latin Night.** DJ spins dance records. **Every Fri. & Sat.:** Top 40 dance bands to be announced.

Cross Street Station

511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti 485–5050

Reggae bands (usually) on Thursdays, rock 'n' roll dance bands on weekends, DJs on Sundays and Tuesdays, and open mike on Wednesdays. Dancing, cover. **Every Sun.: Modern Rock Dance Party.** With DJ Rich Retro. Ages 18 & older admitted. No cover. **Every Tues.: Retro Dance Party.** DJ Speed E. Smith plays 70s & 80s dance music. **Every Wed.: Open-Mike Night.** Hosted by Tom Loncaric. All musicians invited. No cover. **Dec. 5: Backseat Joyride.** See Blind Pig. **Dec. 6: Botfly.** See Blind Pig. **Dec. 7: Gangster Fun.** 10-piece ska band from Detroit whose eclectic repertoire includes the theme from the "Odd Couple" and "I Wanna Be Like You," from Disney's "Jungle Book." **Dec. 12: Broadzilla.** All-female hardcore band from Detroit. **Dec. 13:** To be announced. **Dec. 14: Daddy Longlegs.** East Lansing band comprised of former members of (Bop) Harvey that plays ska- and reggae-flavored rock 'n' roll originals. **Dec. 19: Roots Uprising.** Reggae band. **Dec. 20: Butterfly.** See Blind Pig. **Dec. 21: Fortune and Maltese and the Pallbearers.** Local garage-party band with a theatrical sense of humor that records for Happy Hour. Opening act is **Mondo Mod,** a popular local quartet that plays 60s surf and garage music, along with originals in the same vein. **Dec. 26: Groove Monkey Atmosphere.** Local blues-rock power trio. **Dec. 27: Grizzly Peach.** Local quasi-acoustic folk-rock quartet. **Dec. 28: Whiptail.** All-female local thrash band that plays abrasive, theatrical, and seductively melodic rock 'n' roll, with outrageous and often very funny lyrics.

Del Rio

122 W. Washington 761–2530

No cover, no dancing. Local jazz groups every Sunday, 5–9 p.m. **Dec. 1: Rick Burgess Quintet.** Jazz ensemble led by pianist Burgess. **Dec. 8: Pete Siers & the Gott Street Stompers.** Jazz ensemble led by local drummer Siers. **Dec. 15: Rick Burgess Quintet.** See above. **Dec. 22: Dave Sayers Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by saxophonist Sayers. **Dec. 29: Rick Burgess Quintet.** See above.

The Earle

121 W. Washington 994–0211

Restaurant with live jazz Monday through Saturday. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon. & Thurs.** (8–10 p.m.)**: Rick Burgess.** Solo piano. **Every Tues.** (8–10 p.m.)**: Rick Roe.** Solo piano. **Every Wed.** (8–10 p.m.)**: David Froseth.** Solo piano. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Chuck Hall, and drummer Robert Warren.

Espresso Royale Caffe

214 S. Main 668–1838

The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live acoustic music every Saturday (9–11 p.m.). No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 7: Mulligan Stew Lite.** Local acoustic duo that plays everything from bluegrass influenced fiddle tunes and Celtic airs to contemporary folk, Irish, and country ballads. **Dec. 14: The Second Hand String Band.** See Cafe Zola. **Dec. 21: Skylark Duo.** Holiday song and instrumental tunes by the duo of dulcimer player and banjoist Betsy Beckerman and guitarist Tom Wall, who also plays mandolin and ukulele. **Dec. 28:** No music.

Gandy Dancer

401 Depot 769–0592

Restaurant with live piano every night. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.** (3:30–9 p.m.)**: Alice Rhodes.** Solo pianist. **Every Mon.–Wed.** (6–11 p.m.)**: Tim Howley.** This local pianist plays a variety of popular music and takes requests. **Every Thurs.** (6–9 p.m.)**, Fri.** (5:30–9 p.m.)**, & Sat.** (6 p.m.–midnight)**: Carl Alexius.** Veteran local jazz pianist who takes requests for oldies.

The Green Room

206 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 482–9774

Alternative performing arts space in downtown Yp-

WM. JORDAN

The Keller-Kocher Quartet, Dec. 20 & 21 at the Bird of Paradise.

silanti. All ages admitted; no alcohol served. Shows begin at 10 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), no dancing. **Every Sun.: Gay Cafe.** Sunday brunch with music and poetry by local gay and lesbian performers. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. **Every Thurs.: "Day of the Robot."** Detroit DJs Chuck Hampton & Twonz play a mix of techno, house, bliss, jungle, hip-hop, and ambient music. **Dec. 6: Perplexa.** Local band that plays atmospheric, hypnotic tribal rock. Opening acts are the **Northwood Improvisers,** a contemporary jazz ensemble that includes members from Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, and a third band to be announced. **Dec. 10: "Word of Mouth."** Open-mike poetry and multimedia performances. With featured readers to be announced. **Dec. 13: Easy Action.** Detroit area band featuring members of the Laughing Hyenas and Big Chief that plays 70s rock 'n' roll with a hardcore edge. Opening act is **The Plumbobs,** a local pop-punk band led by singer-songwriter Johnny Rigg. Remainder of December schedule to be announced.

The Gypsy Cafe

214 N. Fourth Ave. 994–3940

This new coffeehouse features live acoustic music, poetry readings, and even some comedy in its back room on weekends, 9:30 p.m.–midnight. Also, open mike on Thursdays (8 p.m.) and tarot readings on weekends (8:30 p.m.–2 a.m.). Admission policy is still unsettled: sometimes there's a cover charge, and sometimes it's free admission with passing of a hat after each set. No dancing. **Dec. 6: Restroom Poets.** Popular local quartet that plays lyrical, melodic, neo-psychedelic rock 'n' roll originals whose straining apocalyptic grandeur suggests a more earthbound U2. Opening act is **Sister Seed,** a semi-acoustic folk-pop band from Detroit led by singer-guitarists Christine Kerwin and Alicia Gbur. **Dec. 7: Ken Cormier.** Performance poet and singer-songwriter with a penchant for comedy who accompanies himself with a guitar, an assortment of percussion instruments, and a tape machine. A longtime fixture of the local poetry scene who moved to Boston a few months ago, Cormier is back in town to complete the recording of his debut CD. **Dec. 13: Frank Allison.** Acoustic performance by this talented and popular local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter, accompanied by Kevin Allison, the guitarist in Frank's band, the Odd Sox, and other drop-in guests. **Dec. 14: "Art Show."** Performance piece with music by **Stefan Trendov,** a nationally renowned architectural illustrator. **Dec. 21: Chris Buhalis & K. C. Groves.** Singer-songwriter double bill. Buhalis was recently featured as "one to watch" on "Acoustic Cafe," local DJ Rob Reinhart's classy syndicated radio show. Groves is a local folk-styled singer-songwriter whose songs are known for their penetrating emotional power. **Dec. 21: Brian Lillie.** Rock and folk originals by this former Maitries guitarist, who released a new CD, "Waking Up in Traffic," that *Agenda* named the best local release of 1995. **Dec. 27:** To be announced. **Dec. 28: Los Diablos.** Country originals and covers by this new Community High quintet that features former Blue Vinyl drummer B. J. Hill on guitar and vocals, guitarist Ian Wolfe, bassist Toby Summerfield, and two members of Lucky Haskins, vocalist Ryan Racine and drummer Dave Brophy.

The Habitat

3050 Jackson Rd. 665–3636

Lounge at Weber's Inn. Solo piano during happy hour by **Sharon Marie** (Mon.–Fri. 4:45–8:45 p.m.). Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 2–7: L'USA.** Top-40 dance band. **Dec. 9, 14 & 16–21: Cafe Au Lait.** Top-40 dance band. **Dec. 23–28, 30, & 31: Kaleidoscope.** Top-40 dance band.

The Heidelberg

215 N. Main 663–7758

This rock 'n' roll club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live dance bands on Fridays & Saturdays (10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.), and Sundays (8–10:30 p.m.), and acid jazz on Thursdays (10 p.m.–1:30 a.m.). Cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: II-V-I Orchestra.** Late-30s swing and 40s R&B. See Events. 7–9:30 p.m. **Dec. 3: Ann Arbor Poetry Slam.** With **Ray McNeice.** See Events. 8 p.m. **Dec. 6:** No music. **Dec. 7: Steve Somers Band.** Top-notch soul-flavored R&B, blues, and 70s funk sextet led by Somers, a versatile guitarist with a pungent, staccato style, and vocalist **Valerie Barrymore.** With drummer Jesse Godfrey, bassist John Ford, trumpeter and keyboardist Dave Meyers, saxophonist Joe LeBeau, and second guitarist Dave Budzinski. **Dec. 13:** To be announced. **Dec. 14 & 20:** No music. **Dec. 21: Deep Space 6.** See Rick's. **Dec. 27:** To be announced. **Dec. 28:** No music. **New Year's Eve: Scott Morgan & Friends.** An evening of blues and 60s Detroit rock 'n' roll by a band led by veteran local singer-songwriter Morgan, a fixture on the local rock scene since his days with the legendary Rationals in the 60s.

Homeplate Sportsbar

3750 Washtenaw Ave. 971–2000

New lounge at the Ramada Inn Ann Arbor. DJs on weekends, jam sessions on Mondays. Also, karaoke on Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** A DJ spins Latin dance records. **Every Sat: Reggae Night.** A DJ spins reggae records.

Leonardo's

2101 Bonisteel Blvd. 764–7544

Performance area in the food court at the U-M Pierpont Commons (formerly North Campus Commons). Live music Mon., Thurs., & Fri., along with open mikes the last Wednesday of every month, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.** (through December 16)**: Randy Napoleon & Friends.** Jazz standards and originals, from bebop to modern styles, by a quartet led by this local guitarist. With saxophonist Andrew Bishop, drummer Steve Aho, and bassist Erin Roberts. **Every Thurs.** (through December 12)**: U-M Jazz Studies Program.** Live jazz standards and originals by U-M music students, directed by U-M jazz studies director Ed Sarath. Weekly featured soloists to be announced.

The Nectarine

510 E. Liberty 994–5436

This popular local New York–style dance club features DJs five nights a week, 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: Boys' Night Out.** With DJ Roger LeLievre. **Every Sat.: 70s & 80s Dance Party.** With DJ Roger LeLievre. **Every Mon.: Alternative & Goth Invasion.** With DJ Doug. **Every Tues.: Boys' Night Out.** See above. **Every Wed.: Disco Dance Party.** With DJ Terry C. **Every Thurs.: EuroBeat Dance Party.** European-style house, techno, and alternative dance music with DJ Reno.

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church 996–2747

Live music on weekends and live music or DJs during the week, 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Campus-area location gives this club a strong collegiate flavor, but the music also draws a heavy nonstudent clientele. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Tues.** (except December 24 & 31)**: TopKat.** Percussion-led dance-groove quartet led by singer-guitarist Jeff Gordon and two former members of the Difference, drummer Tom Campbell and keyboardist Dean Angermeier. **Dec. 2: Soulstice.** College rock cover band from East Lansing. **Dec. 4: Vertical Horizon.** Acoustic folk-rock duo featured on the latest "Aware" compilation CD. **Dec. 5: Living Soul.** This East Lansing band recently opened for Jimmy Buffett in New Orleans—its reward for being named the nation's best Jimmy Buffett tribute band. **Dec. 6:** To be announced. **Dec. 7: Deep Space Six.** Local Grateful Dead cover band. **Dec. 9: Fiends of Wonderland.** Funk-rock quartet from Flint. **Dec. 11: The Lapdogs.** 8-piece retro R&B & blues-rock band with an unusual horn section (two trombones & a trumpet) and a female vocalist with a big voice and a predilection for Janis Joplin songs. **Dec. 12: Enchanted Iris.** U-M student band that plays covers by the likes of the Grateful Dead and Frank Zappa. **Dec. 13: Fat Amy.** College pop band from East Lansing led by former Going Public guitarist Brent Gillespie. **Dec. 14: Soulstice.** See above. **Dec. 16:** To be announced. **Dec. 18: Jawbone.** College rock band from East Lansing. **Dec. 19: Jerry Sprague & the Remainders.** Roots-rock band led by guitarist Jerry Sprague. **Dec. 20: Dorothy.** Contemporary dance-rock originals and covers by this East Lansing band that features a female vocalist. **Dec. 21: Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band.** Sultry, high-energy calypso and reggae by this popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilanti-based percussion ensemble led by Hugh Borde, who has been with the band since its inception 50 years ago. The band released a Schoolkids' CD, "hotlikefire." **Dec. 23:** To be announced. **Dec. 24 & 25:** Closed. **Dec. 26–28: "Battle of the Bands."** Competition between eight local bands—four on Thursday and four on Friday—with the two winners competing in the finals on Saturday night. **December 30: Nick Strange and the Bare Nakeds,** a popular local blues & reggae dance band. **New Year's Eve: Big Dave & the Ultrasonics.** Local blues & blues-rock band. See Events.

Shooters

11485 North Territorial, Dexter 426–1600

This sports bar adjacent to the Terrace Place restaurant features DJs, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Very large dance floor. Dancing, no cover. **Every Tues.–Sun.:** DJs play a wide variety of vintage and contemporary rock, country, and R&B dance music.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 485–5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music six nights a week, usually 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., with karaoke on Sundays. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. **Every Mon.: Open Mike Unplugged.** Hosted by **Chris Buhalis,** a local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. All acoustic performers invited. 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. **Every Tues.: Open Mike/Blues Jam.** Hosted by **C. C. and the Bad Luck Boys,** a blues band led by Chris Casello of the Prodigals. All bands and musicians invited. **Every Wed.: Open Mike.** Hosted By **Brian Brickley** and **Rusty James.** All acoustic and electric musicians invited. **Dec. 5: Steve Hummer and Diane Glen.** Acoustic rock 'n' roll duo from Toledo. **Dec. 6: Buster's Blues Band.** Blues band. **Dec. 7:** To be announced. **Dec. 12: Kim French & as U R.** Country-rock quartet from Flint led by singer-songwriter French. **Dec. 13: Blues Life.** Blues band. **Dec. 14: Eureka Blue Moon.** Blues band. **Dec. 19: Big Fun.** Veteran local funk/metal garage band that includes former members of Dog Soldier, Culture Shock, and the Voodoo Lawnmowers. **Dec. 20 & 21: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Super-fine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band's new CD, "Hip Deep," is due out this month from Schoolkids'. **Dec. 26: Rollie Tussing III.** Blues-oriented vocalist and multi-instrumentalist who plays National steel guitar. **Dec. 27: The Prodigals.** This popular local blues-based quartet features the 60s-style vocal harmonies and neo-surf instrumental work of guitarists Chris Casello and Al Davron, who is also the lead singer. With bassist Kim French and drummer Dario Insinga. The band's new 8-song cassette features originals like "Sharkskin Buffalo" and "All My Friends Are in Jail," along with covers by everyone from the Ventures and the Byrds to Albert King and Chris Isaak. **Dec. 28: BlueRays.** Local blues band led by guitarist Dave Kaftan. **New Year's Eve: Party,** with a live band to be announced.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483–4470

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features college bands on Sundays (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.), karaoke on Mondays (9 p.m.–1 a.m.), acoustic music on Tuesdays (8 p.m.–midnight), Latin music on Wednesdays (8 p.m.–midnight), open-mike stages on Thursdays (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.), and dance bands on Fridays & Saturdays (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.). Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: Retro Night.** 60s, 70s, and 80s dance music by DJ Q. **Every Mon.: Karaoke.** Host to be announced. **Every Tues.: Rob Moses.** Solo pianist and vocalist. **Every Wed.: Latin Extravaganza.** Recorded Latin dance music, with a macarena contest. **Every Thurs.: Open-Mike Night.** Hosted by guitarist **Steve Somers** & friends. All jazz & blues musicians invited. **Dec. 6, 7, 13, & 14:** To be announced. **Dec. 20 & 21: GQ & the Cosmik Rayz.** See Blind Pig. **Dec. 27 & 28: Two Steps Higher.** 70s pop-rock by the husband-and-wife duo of keyboardist Tom Suthpen and guitarist Denise Suthpen.

Theo-Doors

705 W. Cross, Ypsilanti 485–6720

This EMU campus–area restaurant turns into a dance club after 10 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Mon. & Thurs.:** DJs spin top-40 dance tunes. **Every Wed.: Karaoke and Open-Mike Night.** All acoustic performers invited. **Dec. 6: Circus Magurkis.** Chelsea rock 'n' roll band. Opening act is **Schneider,** a rock 'n' roll band from Kalamazoo. **Dec. 13: Domestic Problems.** Funk-rock band from Kalamazoo. Opening act to be announced. **Dec. 20 & 27:** No music. ■

VICKI HONEYMAN

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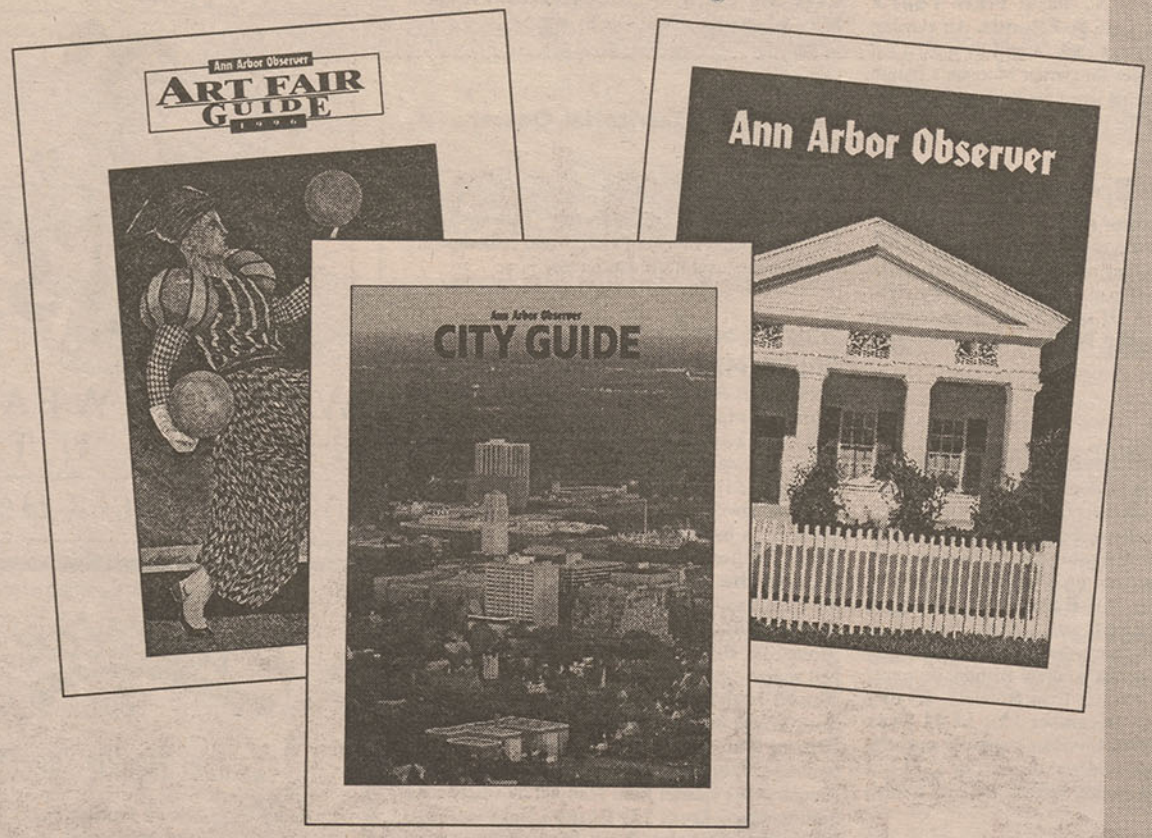

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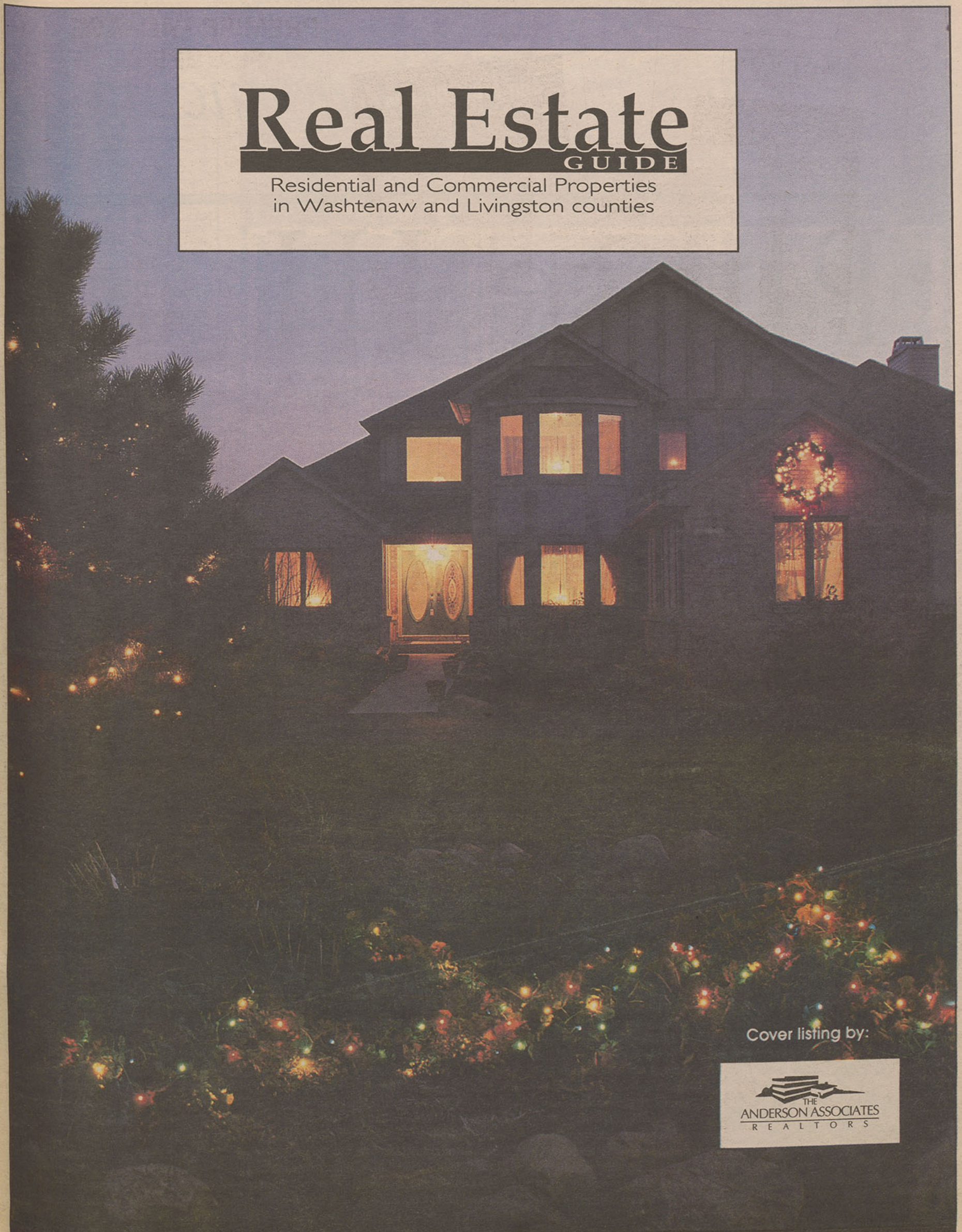

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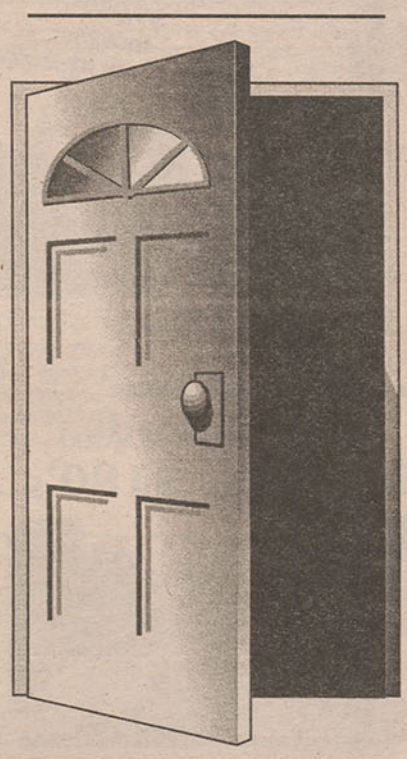

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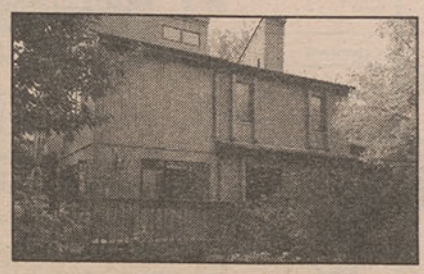

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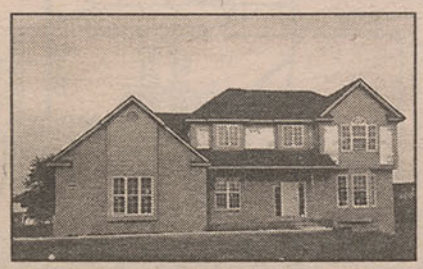

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*We'll MAKE your FIRST MORTGAGE PAYMENT on any new home purchased before 1-1-97***
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Ashford Village

Ann Arbor Schools
Exceptional Values

Colonial • Ranch • Cape Cod & Great Room Plans
From the $150's

Less than $9,950* moves you in

Wonderful Features Including:

- Brick & Vinyl Exterior
- Merillat Cabinets
- Fireplace
- Full Basement
- Large Lots
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- Sidewalks
- Pittsfield Taxes, Ann Arbor Schools

Call Dolly at 313–434–0981
Handicap Accessible plans Now Available!

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From the $180's

Less than $9,700* moves you in

Colonial • Cape Cod & Great Room

What a wonderful place to live
Only 20 minutes from Ann Arbor

- 3 & 4 Bedrooms
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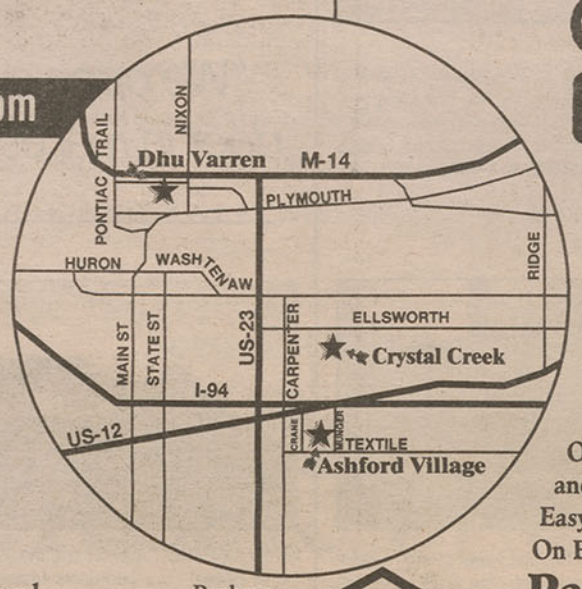


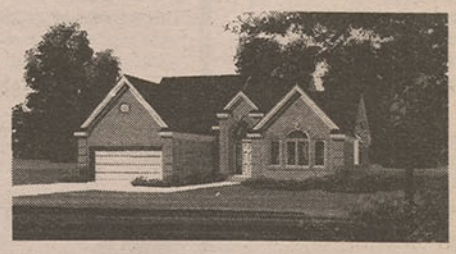
Brokers Welcome

Immediate or Quick Move In Available

Call 810–685–0908
Located on the West Side of Milford Road
4 Miles North of 1-96 Just South of GM Road.

Dhu Varren ON THE PARK

4 New Luxurious Plans from the $200's



NEW MODELS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING

- **3045 Sq. Ft.:** 4-bedroom, Curved Staircase, Colonial *(coming soon)*
- **2405 Sq. Ft.:** 3 or 4 bedroom with 1st floor master suite
- **2707 Sq. Ft.:** 4 bedroom updated Colonial
- **2216 Sq. Ft.:** 4 bedroom w/ 1st floor master suite *(coming soon)*

Unbeatable Features

- Brick -4 sides
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- Fireplace
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On the South side of Dhu Varren Rd. between Nixon and Pontiac Trail

Crystal Creek

Less than $9,700* moves you in

Now Available by Tri-Mount

5 new floor plans to choose from
From the $150's

Colonial • Cape Cod • Ranch • Greatroom
1600 - 2200 S.F.
Pittsfield taxes, Ann Arbor schools
Only minutes from U of M, Eastern and Briarwood Mall
Easy access to I-94 & US23
On Ellsworth Road - east of Carpenter

Pamela Robinson
313–572–0116

Model Hours:
Open Daily
1-6 p.m.

*Figures are estimates only. Actual interest rate & APR may be higher or lower than those used to obtain these examples. Visit our models for more information. You may qualify. **Mortgage payments for each home type are figured on base price & base elevation only. Good on new deposits & purchases only.

BRAND NEW LANDAU CUSTOM HOME

Outstanding luxury contemporary ready for immediate occupancy. Located on a one acre plus wooded & professionally landscaped site with township taxes and Ann Arbor schools. A two story foyer with warm hardwood floors and an oak staircase greet you as you enter this clean lined contemporary built in the Frank Lloyd Wright tradition. The study features paneled cherry walls and built-in bookshelves. A spacious formal living room and dining room offers beautiful views of the landscape. The natural maple kitchen with upgraded appliances and countertops is open to the breakfast space and spacious family room with brick fireplace. Four large bedrooms and a luxurious master bath includes a Jacuzzi tub and separate shower stall. Daylight windows in the lower level offer the future finish options.

Other choice building sites available including Towsley Farms, Glennborough, Travis Pointe and Thornwood.

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5340 Plymouth Road • Suite 100 • Ann Arbor

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NEW—JUST FINISHED! Immediate occupancy! Secluded, hard to find, easy to get to on the outskirts of town. Pinckney schools, hundreds of towering trees, panoramic views, great neighborhood, 2,050 sq. ft. plus 800 in walkout. Pond borders property. $214,900.
JOE WILT 201–4569. (F–8)

THIS IS THE OLD WEST SIDE CLASSIC you've been waiting for! Custom cabinets in kitchen, French doors, fireplace, large master, full baths, and upstairs study. Total of 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, beautiful yard with brick walk, and enclosed porch. $225,000.
LINDA PENA 813–1555. (S–39)

LOVELY LAKE FOREST HOME! Large deck overlooks trees and stream, first-floor master suite offers quiet relaxation, open kitchen, great room with fireplace and cathedral ceilings. Four bedrooms. $229,000.
BARB COOPER 769–0939. (W–4)

COUNTRY SUBDIVISION PEACE AND QUIET are waiting for you in this 3-bedroom, 2-bath brick ranch with walkout basement. Neutrally decorated, lots of updates. $162,500.
GAIL SINELLI 761–4564. (L–05)

REDUCED $15,000! Ann Arbor's exclusive custom-built, two-story condo with full basement, end unit with private landscaped yard. Low fees. Three years old, last one for sale. Three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, master with Jacuzzi, fireplace, spacious floor plan, and 2-car attached garage. $195,000. **TIM HARRISON 994–0124.** (L–32)

SIX-YEAR-OLD CONTEMPORARY home in the Tanglewood sub—Cathedral ceilings, two-story entry, open floor plan with a first-floor study and laundry, large media/rec room in lower level, and professional landscaping. Available immediately. $286,900.
NANCY HARRISON 994–0124. (T–2)

JUST LISTED. Wonderful 1,800-sq.-ft., 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home. Sparkling white kitchen and eating space with hardwood floors. Great room with fireplace and cathedral ceilings. Private first-floor master suite. $192,000.
BARB COOPER 769–0936. (S–4)

COMPLETE PRIVACY in this remodeled ranch with custom kitchen on one acre. Cedar deck and screened porch, 2-car garage, beautiful landscaping. $151,500.
GAIL SINELLI 761–4564. (M–19)

Season's Greetings
to You and Yours
from
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995–8119

Barton Hills
Best Buy!

Secluded country estate nestled in 3.5 acres of natural wooded beauty, only 5 minutes from central Ann Arbor and one mile from Barton Hills Country Club. Enjoy beautifully decorated luxury in this immaculate 5.5 bath, 6 bedroom, 6200 sq.ft., contemporary home. Amenities abound starting with a 1300 bottle wine cellar, marble master bath with Jacuzzi, 3 fireplaces, vaulted ceilings, a mother-in-law suite, an au pair or guest suite. Ceramic tile baths, intercom, central air, security and irrigation systems.

Priced far below bank appraisal. A must see! $695,000.

Call Fran Jones 971-6070, eves. 994-6505

Reinhart
Charles Reinhart Company Realtors

GEDDES LAKE
Quiet, Quiet, Quiet

Nestled among hills, woods and ponds in a natural setting unduplicated anywhere else in Ann Arbor you will find Geddes Lake. You will also find the kind of quiet that you thought only comes with living in the country. Yet Geddes Lake offers a location in the midst of one of Ann Arbor's most desirable residential locations. Truly an oasis in an urban setting, an oasis filled with flowers, trees, birds, and peace and quiet.

When you come home to Geddes Lake, you come home to surroundings that immediately transport you to another, less stressful, way of living. After a hard day's work, refresh yourself with a swim in the pool, play a game of tennis, walk or ride your bike through some of the best scenery in Ann Arbor — right in your own neighborhood. At Geddes Lake, you're just 1/2 mile from Gallup Park, where you can enjoy a canoe ride, run the trails, fish, or just soak up the great views.

Geddes Lake offers all the advantages of a well-planned townhouse community plus the benefits of home ownership in a thriving market-rate cooperative. Come home to the quiet of Geddes Lake.

GEDDES
L·A·K·E

Conveniently located on Ann Arbor's desirable northeast side. Off Huron Parkway between Plymouth Road and Geddes Road.

For sales information, call 996-1234 weekdays from 9-5.

GEDDES LAKE COOPERATIVE HOMES, INC.
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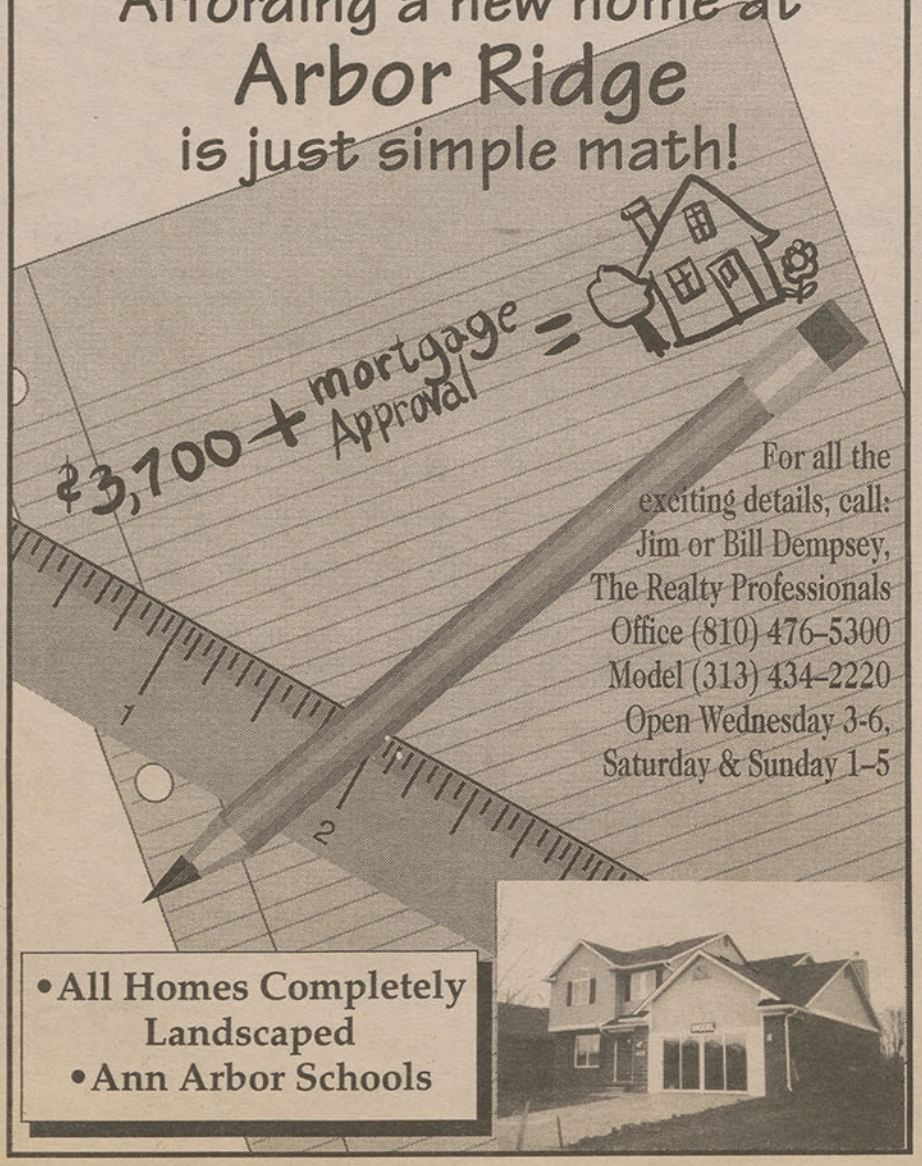
Affording a new home at Arbor Ridge is just simple math!

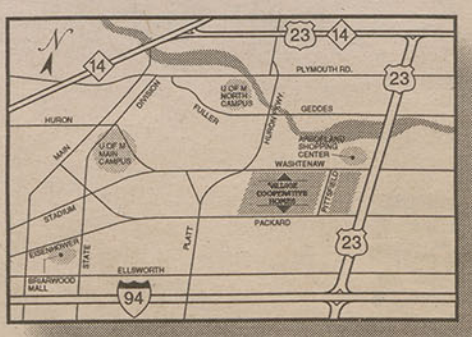


For all the exciting details, call:
Jim or Bill Dempsey,
The Realty Professionals
Office (810) 476-5300
Model (313) 434-2220
Open Wednesday 3-6,
Saturday & Sunday 1-5

- **All Homes Completely Landscaped**
- **Ann Arbor Schools**

The VILLAGE
Vintage Ann Arbor Living

Consider ownership of a beautiful, vintage townhome at The Village. Have the privacy of your own affordable home conveniently located within minutes of downtown Ann Arbor. The Village is situated on attractively landscaped grounds, featuring swimming pool, tennis court and more!



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Come for a visit, stay for a lifetime.

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Sales Office Open: Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm
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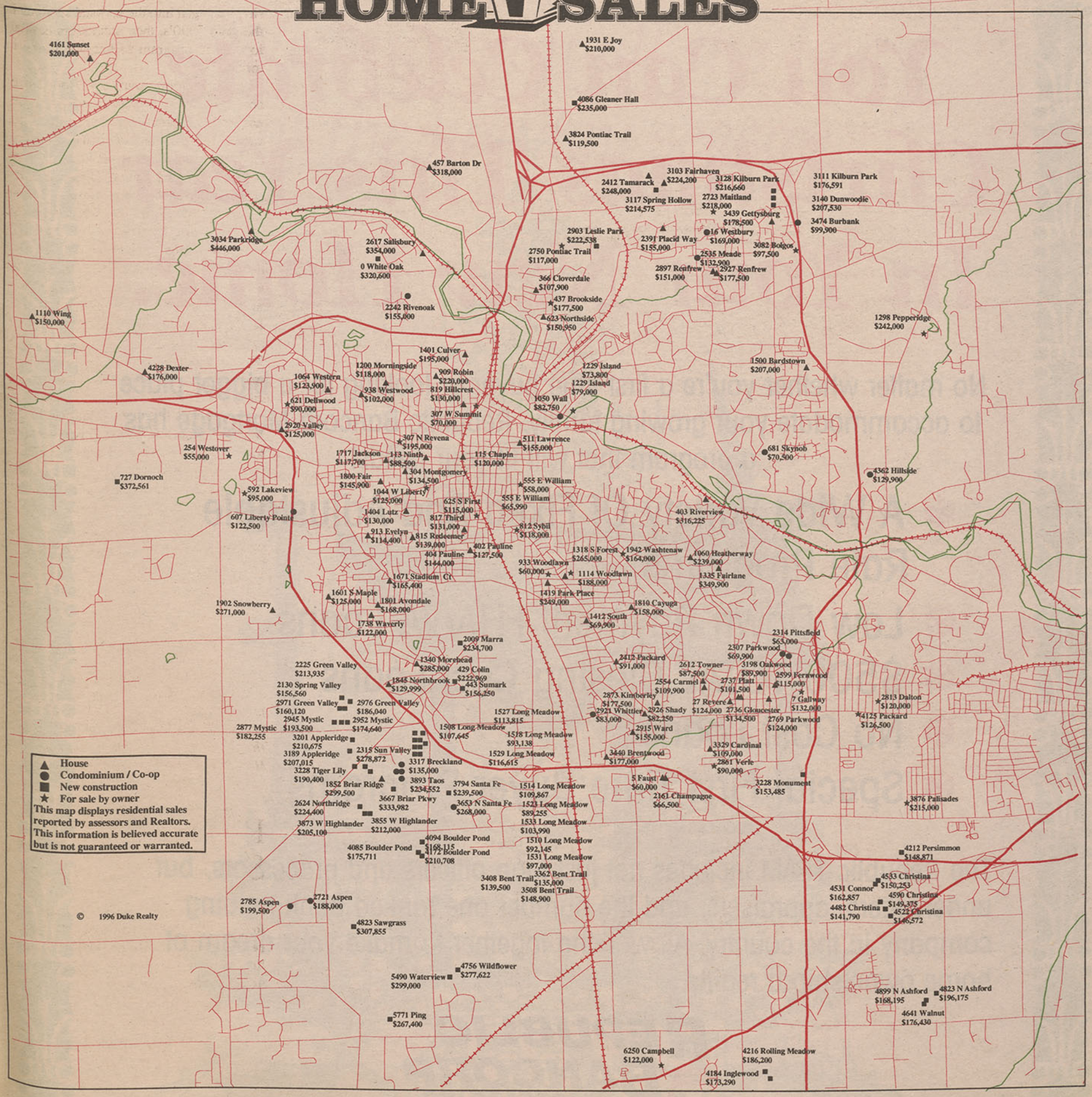
OCTOBER 1996

HOME SALES



One hundred seventy-five residential properties changed hands in October. New construction accounted for almost one-third (fifty-six) of the total. Pittsfield Township continues to build its way onto the map, bringing forty-three new homes to market. The bargains of that group: nine Weatherstone condo units on Long Meadow sold for $90,000–$110,000.

Lakewood neighborhood's 254 Westover posted the lowest price of the month at $55,000. **With just 504 square feet, this house is the most petite to sell all year.** The small size means it isn't quite the bargain it seems. The price works out to $109 per square foot, compared to just $89 for the Weatherstone units. At the top of the price list and overhanging Huron River Drive in Scio Township, a brick Tudor at 3034 Parkridge sold for $446,000. Its 3,600 square feet on two acres included four bedrooms and two and a half baths.

Also in October, **1419 Park Place sold for $249,000—four times the price of its neighbor** at 933 Woodlawn, which garnered just $60,000. For buyers accustomed to the homogeneity of neighborhoods that consistently sell within narrow and predictable price ranges, this variation strikes many as simply astounding and downright fickle. Yet for Burns Park, as well as other Ann Arbor neighborhoods, diversity is the norm. Buyers regularly "trade up" by moving to a bigger house just a block or two away.

If election promises are kept, **trading up may soon give way to trading down.** A promise that may be easy to keep was Clinton's proposal to reduce the capital gains tax on a principal residence if a seller buys a home of lesser value. Currently the tax structure discourages homeowners from downsizing, except for those fifty-five or older who employ the once in a lifetime exclusion to dodge this tax. Since Republicans are dying to reduce the capital gains tax in all of its forms, Clinton's idea may be taken up as a compromise in legislation that selectively reduces, but does not completely eliminate, the capital gains tax. But don't hold your breath.

—Kevin Duke

You Can Celebrate Christmas This Year In Your New Home.

No matter whether you're a first time buyer or looking for a bigger place to accommodate your growing family, Republic Bancorp Mortgage has a program that will fit your needs!

- A Wide Variety Of Fixed And Adjustable Rate Programs
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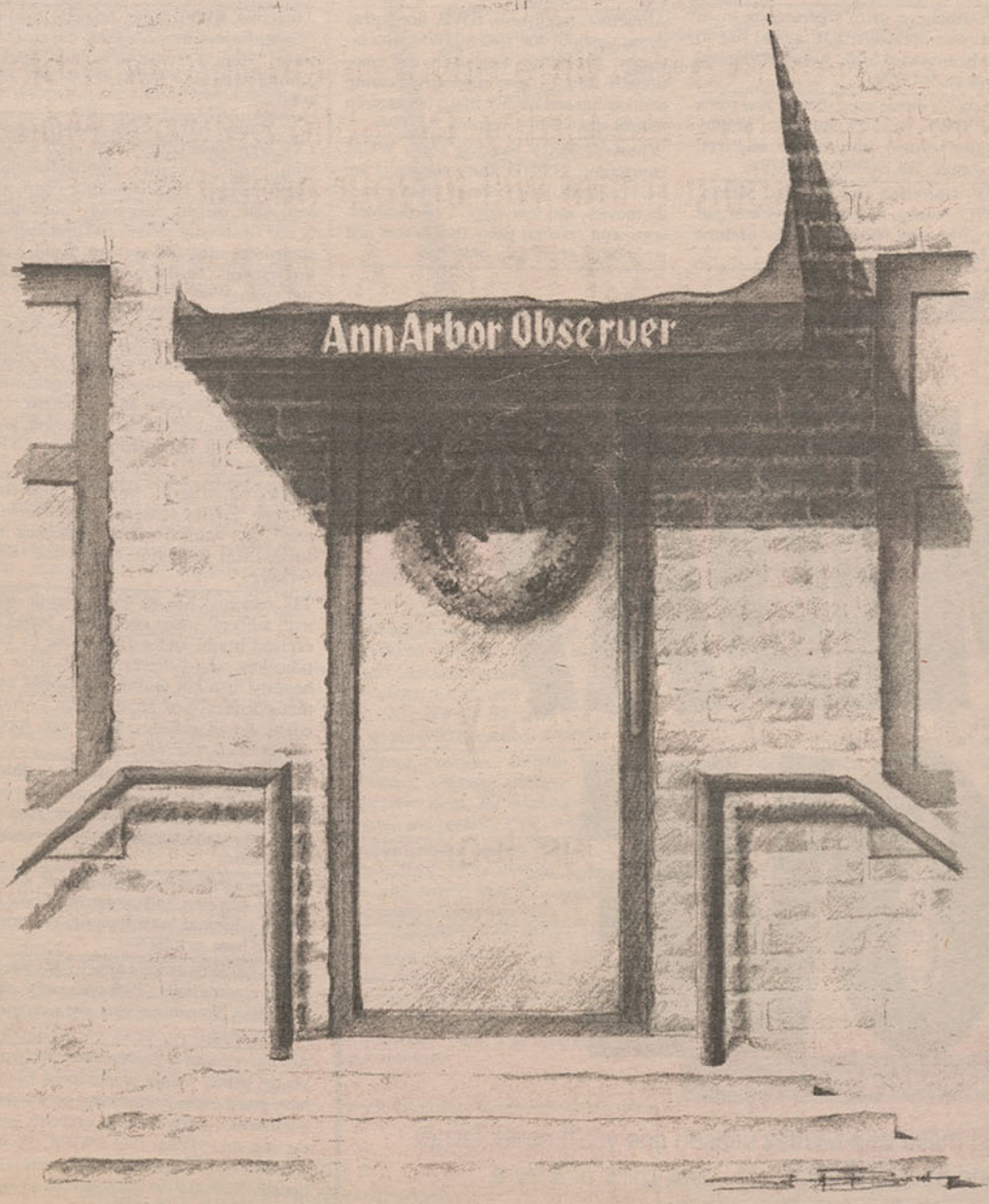
Call: Barbara Jo Smith

Phone: (313) 995-4499 Pager: (313) 495-4648

Wishing you all the joy of the holiday season



From the staff of the Ann Arbor Observer

PERSONALS

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

Dynamic, beautiful, cultured PhD. Tennis, golf, skiing enthusiast. Mean apple pie. Theater addiction. Dance fever. ISO SWM, 33–46. ☎4564✍

Tall, attractive, blonde prof. loves hockey, football, and the outdoors. Has controlled herpes. Looking for an easygoing guy with energy. ☎4561✍

SWF, 38, big heart, mind, and body. Looking for SWM who is available for meaningful interaction. I am big and beautiful. Try something new! ☎4566✍

Pretty, slim, **DAPF,** 30s, intelligent, fit, independent. ISO tall, neat, NS, prof. gentleman, 35–45, who likes movies, books, outdoors, and music. ☎4569✍

WF with teenagers ISO practical joker, quick (well, not that quick), ambitious, strong handshake, educated non-Yanni, athletic, dies for basketball, sensual without mush, generous, philanthropic, over forty and over 5'10". Great letters only, pictures a plus. ☎4572✍

Do your eyes hold the answer? **DWPF,** 48, creative, loving, fun, degreed, interested. ISO DWPM who's ISO me. I'm worth the call. ☎4573✍

Very youthful, trim, **DWPF,** late 40s, ivy educated, kind, fun, sparkling, stimulating yet informal. Love Europe, also northern Michigan, arts, walks, lovely conversation. Seeks gentle, intelligent man with integrity, energy to be interested in many facets of life. Must be seasoned by life and kind. Clark Gable not required. Friendship or more. ☎4574✍

I don't believe there's perfection in an ideal mate. Realistic, **SJF** would like to meet like-minded SJM, 30-something and kids okay. ☎4577✍

"Get me" a theme song, find it, and win a prize. **DWF,** 41, 5'5", attractive, healthy (despite herpes), non-scholar intellect, ISO similar, tall, S/DWM. ☎4579✍

DWF, Unitarian Universalist, Mensa, NS/ND, beauty, 32, mom of African girl ISO SBM who knows TLC for lifetime and family. ☎4597✍

PERSONAL AD OF THE MONTH

All Personal ads in the Ann Arbor Observer are automatically entered in our monthly drawing. The winner will receive a gift certificate for **Cappuccino and Dessert for Two** at...

Very youthful, trim, **DWPF,** late 40s, ivy educated, kind, fun, sparkling, stimulating yet informal. Love Europe, also northern Michigan, arts, walks, lovely conversation. Seeks gentle, intelligent man with integrity, energy to be interested in many facets of life. Must be seasoned by life and kind. Clark Gable not required. Friendship or more. ☎4574✍

Gratzi
Coffee House • Classic Cafe

To place an Ann Arbor Observer Personal ad, use the form on page 159 & bring it in or **fax** it to (313) 769-3375.

DWF, 5'7", ISO educated M, 48+, for dating, LTR. Mozart, travel, conversation, walks, foreign cinema. ☎4591✍

Attractive, intelligent, **SWF,** no dependents, youthful 40s, ISO S/DWM with integrity, 40s or 50s, financially and emotionally free to share supportive, caring relationship and quality lifestyle based on mutual appreciation, respect. ☎4586✍

Widowed **WCF** looking for a WCM companion, NS/ND, forty and up. I am 54, intelligent, love to travel, enjoy comedy movies, and love dogs. I am disabled, born with cerebral palsy (not severe and not mild). Letters only. ☎4605✍

Attractive, rich, bored, **WF** ISO younger man to share a bottle of Chateau Lafite Rothschild. ☎4587✍

Attractive, **SWF,** petite, brunette, senior citizen. Enjoys music, sports, dining out, travel. Honest, sense of humor. Seeks compassionate, SWM, NS, 55–70. ☎4584✍

Waterbaby, **SWF** seeks monogamous LTR with equal partner, SM, who is tall, slim, exotic?, ego-free, nonjudgmental, world traveler?, beyond mildlife crisis, affectionate, patient, passionate, emotionally and financially secure, communicative, sometimes silly, and my best friend. Mutual interests: music, food, humor, nature, and reading. ☎4583✍

Beautiful, intelligent, creative, warm, honest, **SW** mother, 32, NS/ND, 1 son, ISO NS, educated, thoughtful, down-to-earth, caring, responsible, ingenious, SWPM, 28–36, who enjoys herbal tea, camping, children, books, gardening, and exercise. For friendship, maybe LTR. ☎4585✍

DWF, 62, liberal, healthy, and fun lifestyle. Enjoys concerts, conversations, plays, etc. Attractive and sometimes intense. Likes PBS/NPR. Coffee and talk? ☎4589✍

Tall, educated, **SF,** 40, seeks a gentle man with a liberal social conscience, well-exercised brain, and a fine sense of the ridiculous who believes there is more to honesty than not telling falsehoods and that openness and sharing don't imply emotional dependency. Race, age, looks unimportant. ☎4598✍

Adventurous, analytical, attractive, athletic, **SWJPF,** 30s, ISO confident, playful, thoughtful, liberal, and winsome man to muse, play, and maybe have kids together. ☎4600✍

Seeking a NS, 40+, SWM who is also a dancer, traveler, and/or gardener. We're bright, educated, nice looking, considerate, and honest. ☎4608✍

SWF, 43, ISO dance partner for vintage dance classes/balls (19th and early 20th centuries). Romance a plus, not a requirement. ☎4613✍

Attractive, active, professional, 43 years young, petite, weight proportional, brown hair, green eyes. I am warm, personable, intelligent. I enjoy reading, exercise, golf, cycling, and skiing. ISO SWPM, 38–45, who desires an honest, monogamous relationship with similar interests. NS a must. Social drinker ok. ☎4614✍

Attractive, trim, **SWPF,** 38, 5'5", seeks SWPM, intelligent, sensitive, fit, for quiet times, walks, talks, companionship, LTR. ☎4615✍

Attractive, happy, **DWPF** with one sweet daughter. I enjoy sports, blues and jazz, movies, comedy clubs, anything outdoors. ISO SWPM, 35–45, to have fun with. ☎4618✍

DWPM, 38, 6', 175 lbs. I'm an obnoxious, overbearing, inconsiderate, heavy drinking, gambling addict. No, not really. But I am handsome, easygoing, intelligent, supportive, and romantic. I enjoy good conversation, outdoors, travel, cooking, cats, and much more. Seeking smart, pretty, secure, WPF. ☎4567✍

Men Seeking Women

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

TO PLACE YOUR OWN PERSONAL AD

FILL OUT THE PERSONALS FORM ON PAGE 159 AND SEND IT IN OR FAX TO 769-3375.

- FREE FOUR-LINE AD FOR SINGLES WHO USE THE PERSONAL CALL® PHONE SYSTEM
- FREE PERSONAL CALL® VOICE MESSAGE
- FREE UNLIMITED MESSAGE RETRIEVAL
- FREE MAIL RESPONSE

WE'LL GIVE YOU A TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND A PRIVATE SECURITY CODE SO THAT YOU CAN RECORD YOUR GREETING AND LISTEN TO YOUR MESSAGES AT ANY TIME—24 HOURS A DAY. IT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE!

TO RESPOND TO A PERSONAL AD BY PHONE CALL 1•900•370•2072

FOLLOW THE SIMPLE DIRECTIONS AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHOSE ADS INTEREST YOU, OR YOU CAN BROWSE ADS BY CATEGORY.

WITH ONE CALL, YOU CAN LEAVE AS MANY MESSAGES AS YOU LIKE. YOU MAY CALL ANYTIME, 24 HOURS A DAY.

VOICE GREETINGS ARE ONLY VALID FOR THE MONTH THEY APPEAR IN PRINT

YOU MUST BE 18 OR OLDER
TOUCH-TONE PHONES ONLY
$1.95 A MINUTE.

TO RESPOND TO A PERSONAL AD BY MAIL

RESPONSES ARE FORWARDED FOR $3 PER LETTER. PUT EACH LETTER IN ITS OWN ENVELOPE WITH THE BOX NUMBER AND SUFFICIENT FIRST CLASS POSTAGE ON THE FRONT. DO NOT PUT YOUR RETURN ADDRESS ON THE INDIVIDUAL ENVELOPES. MAIL ALL RESPONSES IN A LARGER ENVELOPE; INCLUDE A CHECK FOR $3 PER RESPONSE MADE PAYABLE TO:

ANN ARBOR OBSERVER,
201 CATHERINE,
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104.

HOLIDAY LOVE

Place a free personal ad and make this holiday season one you'll never forget. It's fast. It's easy. And best of all, it's free. Just think of it as a holiday gift of love from us to you.

To place your FREE voice personal ad, call

(313) 769-3175

Ann Arbor Observer
PERSONALS

PERSONALS

Anti-cliche, **SWM,** 34, 6', 185 lbs., for any SWF, 26–39, who's unpretentious, funny, challenging, creative, optimistic, trim. Yeah, you can talk my head off. ☎4559✍

DWM, retired, attractive, conservative, sentimental, enjoys travel, theater, romantic dinners. Seeks cultured woman who is unattached, sincere, affectionate, with sense of humor for friendship. Please write; letters only. ☎4563✍

SWM, NS, 35, and now heavily into skiing, bicycling, and swimming. That's me. I'm really looking for a LTR. Going out! Like??? ☎4568✍

SJM, 31, 5'6", 130 lbs., lawyer but current MSW student, artist, musician, nature lover, ISO SF, 28–33, for friendship to romance. ☎4571✍

WM, early 50s, fit, funny, fearless, cooks, travels, and reads with passion. Professionally self-employed. ISO warm, intelligent, outgoing, attractive, indoor-outdoor woman whose age is defined by her youthful attitude. ☎4575✍

DWPM, 43, 5'10", 165 lbs. Slightly dented, runs good, reliable. Hockey player and artist, extra large sense of humor. Not ugly, not stupid. ISO SF, 30–45, fit. ☎4576✍

Understated, soft-spoken, down-to-earth, **DWM,** NS, 5'9", responsible, basically neat, loves talk, movies, travel, camping. ISO fit WF, 39–52. ☎4580✍

DWPM, 29, handsome, blue-eyed blond, outdoorsman, NS, social drinker, loves to bowl, work out. Seeks S/DWF, 25–32, slender and pretty for LTR. Kid okay. ☎4581✍

SWM with herpes, 32, 6'1", slim, handsome. I am a very caring and kind person. I seek a woman with herpes who will understand and be accepting. ☎4582✍

Still believe in innocence, honesty, dedication. Looking for a true love. **DWM,** 40s, class, dignity, seeks SWF to laugh, dance, and live again. ☎4588✍

Do you have an Ann Arbor Observer Personals success story to share?

Please send it to:
Ann Arbor Observer
Attn.: Personals
201 Catherine Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
or fax it to us at:
(313) 769-3375

Ann Arbor Observer
PERSONALS

Handsome, tall, fit, PhD—an incredibly wonderful guy—seeks SWF woman of his dreams. ☎4592✍

SWM, 41, NS, educated blue-collar guy, portly but active. Seeks intelligent woman with realistic goals, to share life's adventures. ☎4593✍

Oh my god, I'm 30! Tall, handsome, athletic, NS, **SWPM** just woke up and smelled the morning Diet Pepsi. Definitely ready for the right person who wants a relationship with potential. I'm a well traveled city boy with a love of the Earle, acid jazz, old movies, and theater. Looking for a night-time gal who keeps the dust on the TV instead of her dancing shoes. She should be attractive and intelligent with some sort of career. ☎4596✍

Are you hurting? Something troubling you? I see lots of ads "I have no time for whining." They don't care for you. All they want is a good time for them. I am opposite. I love to help. I am not promoting a business. I am seeking a relationship through helping others. ☎4595✍

Too young and alternative to call Welcome Wagon, but still new homeowner to Ann Arbor doesn't want to burn fireplace wood alone. I'm upper 30s, MBA bound, athletic and outdoors active. ISO open-minded, carrying a youthful and positive attitude, passionate about your fun, continual mental growth, and exploring our world. Let's open presents in front of the fire. ☎4594✍

Dear Santa: Please bring an angel disguised as a SWF to this lonely, **SWM,** 35, ISO a relationship where we can both truly live happily ever after. Looks not important, provided she has other angelic qualities. ☎4599✍

Seek intelligent, warm, considerate, nice looking F, mid 30s–50ish, NS. I am a **DWM,** U-M faculty, wide interests, in great shape, affectionate. ☎4601✍

Do you know the special woman I need? Yourself? If not, she and I will be grateful+ if you relay this notice to her. Widower living in East Lansing, no dependents, youngish, 61, 6'2", attractive, some hearing loss, otherwise robust. NS/ND, MSU social science prof. Involved in fascinating research. Ethnically Jewish but no matter if you're not very religious. Into multi-ethnic foods, NPR/PBS, *NYT, Utne Reader;* widely traveled; health- and quality-conscious, witty, many interests and talents. You are unencumbered, normal to slender, attractive, healthy, competent, accomplished, communicative, sensual, kind, and seek a permanent, loving, and mutually supportive relationship (co-piloted planes fly better and have more fun). ☎4602✍

DWM professional, 48, 5'10", fit, attractive, not ready to hibernate, enjoys plays, books, movies, sports, travel, concerts. ☎4603✍

DWM, compassionate and understanding, a good listener. Values honesty, playfulness, positive thinking. ISO S/DF for LTR and family. See November personal ad with picture. ☎4607✍

The Ann Arbor Observer Personals is pleased to present: A Success Story...

Dear Ann Arbor Observer:

I would like to thank the Ann Arbor Observer for its Personals Ad program. Since running my ad in August of 1996, I have met three wonderful women. As it turns out, two of the women were acquaintances from years ago, giving me the opportunity to rekindle our friendships. Though I have not yet met the woman who I will spend the rest of my life with, I feel it is always a success when you meet great friends and, even better, when you are reintroduced to friends from your past. Thank you again Ann Arbor Observer.

Thanks, Observer.

Sincerely,
R.

Congratulations R.

Ann Arbor Observer
PERSONALS

Handsome, down-to-earth, quiet, 28-year-old, **SWPM** who has much to say but no cliches. Interests include music, movies, long walks, sports, and short road journeys. ISO SWF, 23–32, who, like me, enjoys genuine conversation. ☎4604✍

Intelligent, energetic, athletic, **SJM,** 34, ISO smart, outgoing, positive, SJF with progressive ideals for wide-ranging conversation and possible LTR. ☎4606✍

Romantic, honest, caring, **SBM,** 31, NS, seeks adorable SF to snuggle, laugh, play, grow, and evolve. May we come together in the name of love. ☎4610✍

Attractive, **SWM,** 52, 5'10", 170 lbs., likes outdoor activities. ISO SWF, NS, 35–45, who is vegetarian, likes cooking and eating healthy, enjoys horseback riding and canoeing, wants to grow and heal on a spiritual path, and desires a soulmate. ☎4611✍

SWPM, 45, with master's, who is fit, attractive, prosperous, humorous yet intellectual. No children. Seeks SPF, 30–45, marriage-minded. ☎4612✍

European man, 45, 6'2", slim. ISO you, who is convinced if love is great enough, we could have children. I am an educated, **SWPM.** ☎4609✍

Down-to-earth, handsome, intelligent, **SJM,** 38, PhD professional, 5'10", 160 lbs., loves reading, conversation, the arts, and travel; enjoys nature and outdoor activities; progressive, loyal, occasionally grumpy, and fun. Seeks compatible, attractive, and fit S/DJW in 20s or 30s for loving LTR. ☎4617✍

Women Seeking Women

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

Men Seeking Men

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

SWM, 40ish, 5'9", 155 lbs., NS. Enjoys camping, hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, politics, and environmental activism. Loves folk, blues, country music. ISO SWM, 22–40, NS, slim, masculine, in good shape. Looking for friendship or LTR. ☎4616✍

GWM, 36, 5'8", 130 lbs. Cute, gentle musician. Intelligent and physically fit. ISO GWM or GAM, 20–36, slender, sensitive. ☎4578✍

GWM, 29, 5'9", 160 lbs., light brown hair, blue eyes. Into health and fitness. Likes dining out and movies. ISO NS with similar interests, 25–30. ☎4590✍

Friendships

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

Fit, 74 years young, WM ISO female pal for Sunday drives, shopping, movies, antiquing, and enjoying the finer things in life. I'm a nonsmoker, in great shape. Let's have coffee and meet! ☎4562✍

Attractive, fun-loving couple seeks another imaginative couple to play with and enjoy dancing, walks, and dinners. ☎4565✍

Highland dancer wants to meet Scots-Irish dancers, male and female, 18+, to share talents and skills. Contact others so we could perform locally. ☎4570✍

General Personals

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 370–2072
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

FAKE AD CONTEST

Can you find the fake display ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate from one of our advertisers. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: Fake Ad, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375.

LINCS—Singles introduction program, Jewish Family Services. 971–3280.

Give Your Personal Life a Smile . . . This Holiday Season

'Tis the Season To Try the Personals!

To place your Observer Personal Ad call: (313) 769-3175

Ann Arbor Observer
PERSONALS

CLASSIFIEDS

Entertainment

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

LIVE MUSIC
For all occasions. **Espresso** plays great music for dancing and listening. Jazz, Motown, Classic Rock, and more. Call David, 439–2151, for tape and song list.

★★ ELEGANT MUSIC FOR CLASSIC OCCASIONS ★★
Rapsodia Ensemble provides exquisite string music for all special events. Reasonable rates. (313) 747–8106.

LA CORDA ENSEMBLE
Distinctive string music for a touch of elegance at your wedding, reception, or any festive occasion. String duo, trio, and quartet. Currently appearing for Sunday brunches at the Whitney restaurant in Detroit. Kathryn Stepulla, 459–5296.

YPSILANTI HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER SINGERS
Available for your holiday events. $250.
Call Bill Boggs, 482–8880 ext. 446.

THE FLUTE-HARP DUO
Music for all occasions
U-M graduates, 18 years' experience
Rochelle 475–1660 or Nancy 994–5457

SANTA CLAUS VISIT
Adorable, home party, office. 971–5809.

★ HAMMER DULCIMER ★
Music for weddings, in/outdoor parties, any occasion, and retail. Lessons avail.
Call Jane Chevalier, 665–2357.

ZEEMO PRODUCTIONS
Juggling, yo-yos, magic, balloons, company parties, schools, scouts, stage shows, or strolling. 449–0999.

★ PARTY MAGIC ★
Jim Fitzsimmons
Magic that **"Fitz"** your event! 461–SHOW

Live harp music for any occasion. Flute and Harp Duo also available. Call Laurel at 663–9292.

★ THE COURIERS★
Al Townsend presents the finest in Big Band music. Special arrangements, performed with exceptional style for every occasion. Call Dan, (313) 483–8266.

Classical/Flamenco guitar—Add spice to your celebration. Joseph, 769–1574.

HAVE HARP WILL TRAVEL
Quality work at reasonable rates
Call Rochelle, (313) 475–1660.

★ SOLSTICE ★
Roots, rock, reggae. Also Christmas/seasonal. Duo. Professional. Affordable. Tom Fivenson. 769–0871.

INTRADA
Professional woodwind quintet for weddings, receptions, parties, etc. Classical to popular music. 994–5457.

Ann Arbor Federation of Musicians—Professional musicians and groups for any occasion. Call for referral or free list. 668–8041.

Services

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

"A Course in Miracles" study groups. For info. call Barbara McLeroy, 668–7329.

★ THE CIRCLE STREET HOUSE ★
A unique preschool program has openings. Small group size, morning program only for 2 1/2- to 5-year-olds run by Ken Moore. 19 years' experience teaching preschool. Call 971–2037 for info.

Personalized Computer Tutoring
House calls • Affordable rates
Set-up & Installation
Coaching • Consulting • Diagnostics
Macintosh • DOS • Windows
Call Dan, (313) 769–2082.

Divorce Support Group for Women—8 wks. beg. Oct. 1. Tues. 5:30–7:30 p.m. Therapist led. Barbara McLeroy, M.Ed., M.A., L.P.C. Info./register: 668–7329.

★ The Philosophical Painter ★
Wrap up your decorating projects before the holidays.
Chris Brockman, M.A. 769–0404.

Need help with all those personal errands you cannot get to? Call LTH Services, 995–5582.

ACCURATE PSYCHIC—Answers your questions from practical/personal to spiritual. Past lives, karmic lessons; channeled messages from spirit guides, angels, departed loved ones. Individual sessions; groups, parties, events. By appointment. **Crystal Clear Expressions,** 996–8799.

Handyman Home Services. Roof to foundation repair, maintenance, and improvement. Roofing, tree removal, electrical, plumbing, painting. 475–4565.

★ Alternative Photography ★
Weddings, commitment ceremonies, scene. By appointment. **971–4446.**

Abandon your search and let's not be sexist—call **Pete the Dustman** for your housecleaning chores. Bonded and insured. 761–7565.

HEALTH BREAKTHROUGH—Ambrotose, a patented phytochemical offers an extraordinary health and business opportunity. Mannatech Distributor and Associate, Sandra Shears; 994–0047.

LITTLE ANGEL PHOTOGRAPHY
Capturing life's precious moments. Color, black & white, hand-colored black & white portraits. 995–5277.

House Cleaning. Excellent work and references. Jeanetta, 699–4135.

Therapy Group for Adult Female Survivors of Sexual Abuse. Call Laura Sanders, 662–3509.

1997 is here! Let's get organized! Make more room for what you **really** want. I'll work with you to organize your home or office to do just that. Andre Anbender, 996–9624.

Counseling for Life Transitions
Jane Capin, M.Ed., CSW
Specializing in women's issues
14 years' experience, moderate rates
769–3155

Custom-made Slipcovers
20 years' experience. 913–8078.

★ Martha Brougher Photography ★
Professional wedding, portraits, and commercial photography. Over 10 years of experience. Natural and studio lighting.
(313) 996–1599.

Healing Body, Heart, and Mind with meditation, movement, and art. You can go beyond past trauma and current blocks to increased vitality and potential. Call Cynthia Gormley, MSW. (313) 930–1858.

Paul Engstrom Photography
Holiday portraits, wedding photojournalism, performer headshots. You keep the negatives. Call Paul at 913–6901.

★ Construction Debris—Recycled ★
Roofing, lumber, carpeting, and misc.
TRC HAULING, 665–6895

Calligraphy by John Bullard, 475–7364.
Weddings, poems, certificates, gifts.

– SANDRA SHEARS –
Spiritual Counselor - Energy Healer
(313) 994–0047

★ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY ★
Experienced professional; personal service and reasonable rates. You own and keep the negatives! For information:
Jim Kruz, 668–6988

Computer Service In Your Home
Set-up • Installation • Upgrades
Personalized Instruction
Purchasing Advice • Internet Access
DOS • Windows • Macintosh
Call Edward at (313) 769–8818.

★ Household Debris—Recycled ★
Appliances, furniture, brush, and misc.
TRC HAULING, 665–6895

DON'T PLAY HARD TO FIND
Set up a voice mailbox to make connections across the country. Call 1–900–976–9222 ext. 742, $2/min., 18+, Touch Tone only, 24 hrs. Avalon Comm., (305) 525–0800.

Snow removal, residential only. I use a snow blower and shovels only. Ice melting. Call Brian, 769–2155.

Therapy Group for Teen Female Survivors of Sexual Abuse. Call Laura Sanders, 662–3509 or 763–3785.

DAVE'S HOME REPAIR
Plumbing, Electrical, Structural, Remods, Kitchens, Baths, Floors, Decks, Wood Fencing, Tree Work. Please call DAVE SWARTZ at 475–1136.

★ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY ★
Candid, natural wedding photography by an experienced professional. Individualized services to meet your specific needs. No rigid "packages." Natural light/studio portraiture.
995–0760 **David Koether** 995–0760

NEW OPTIONS COUNSELING FOR WOMEN
Careers, education, relationships, relocation, artistic/creative pursuits. 973–0003.

★ Sandi's Word Processing ★
"Resume Specialist" . laser . edit . fax . business . legal . academic. 426–5217

★★ HOUSECLEANING ★★
Ann Arbor's finest. Experienced. References. Cleaning tailored to meet your individual needs. Call 434–1674.

Adult males sexually abused as children. Indiv. and grp. therapy, sliding scale. Call Rick Reinsmith, MA, LLP, at 677–3233 or Ian MacGregor, ACSW, at 973–2750.

GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP
Contact Robert Dargel, MSW, ACSW, LMFT at (313) 996–0918. Insurance accepted.

ADD—Are you an adult suffering from the symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorder? Call the U-M Behavioral Medicine Clinic at the Briarwood Medical Campus. (313) 998–6424.

Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse—Group Openings for Women. Contact Lisa C. Wolf, MA, (313) 930–0864.

Repeat Performance Resale Shop—Consign bridal, evening, special occasion wear and buy a new special garment for a great price. Parkland Center, Jackson Rd. (313) 741–8028.

CRITTER CARE
Pet Care When You Can't Be There
Kristina Taylor
(313) 747–8259

MAHALA CARES
Pet Sitting. Domestic, exotic, & farm animals. Feline & canine behavior consulting & therapy. Experienced, references. **(517) 769–6963**
Accepting holiday reservations now.

Massage & Trigger Point Myotherapy
JOY SHANNON, 769–2232

B & A Sunrise—Quality painting at a quality price. Serving Washtenaw County for over 18 years. Insured. Free estimates. (313) 668–0417.

Videotape all occasions and events. High quality! Reasonable rates. 769–2138.

Miscellaneous

ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER and ADHD PROVEN, nondrug solution. So effective we offer a 90-day money-back guarantee. All natural.
FREE doctor's information.
(800) 775–0712, ext. 8536.

STORAGE SPACE: Clean, dry, 10-ft. ceiling, downtown AA. Available 24 hours. 665–6173.

Are you new in town? Ready to get out, meet new people, and involve yourself in the community? **The Ann Arbor Jaycees are for you!** As a leadership training organization for adults ages 21–39, we offer you the chance to improve yourself and your community while making new friends and having fun. Come see what we are about at our meeting on the first Thursday of each month, room 101, Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., Washtenaw Community College at 7:30 p.m., or call 913–9629.

For Sale

'94 Grand Prix GTP coupe, forest green, 3.4 ltr. V-6. Excellent condition, loaded. Best offer. Call 481–9039.

New Yarn Line
Now selling: Brown Sheep, Classic Elite, Brunswick, Coates Paton, Sirdar, La Mieux. Forma, (313) 761–1102.

Lessons & Workshops

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

Weaving and Knitting Classes—Sign up now for spring 1997 classes. Forma Co., (313) 761–1102.

Brazilian Portuguese for business or travel. Rapid, all levels. 485–3842.

Singing is FUN. Voice lessons, MM degree. Experienced. Member NATS. Former member Chicago Opera. Reasonable. 663–0073. Leave message.

THE ART OF JOURNAL WRITING
8-week support group for women and men who wish to explore journal writing as a tool for growth and creativity. Confidential. New Options Counseling, 973–0003.

VOICE LESSONS
Sarah Bachman Krieger, formerly of the New York City Opera, Juilliard-trained, experienced, successful teacher. All levels. 996–4255.

Accent reduction for foreign-born professionals. Rapid method. 485–3842.

Piano & Guitar Lessons by double-degreed performer in Pittsfield Township. Min. age 9. Adults pampered. Wild success with restarts. Call Penni at 973–6879.

MASTERING MEDITATION: A 3-week introductory program. Basic techniques of relaxation and meditation; self-improvement. Offered free of charge by the Sri Chinmoy Centre, 994–7114.

★ LEARN! Fiddle, Guitar, Bodhran ★
Celtic, southern, and Quebec styles.
Study with a working pro.
(313) 662–0879.

ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACHERS GUILD offers placement with qualified, professional piano teachers.
All levels and ages, 665–5346.

NATURAL SCIENCE
Programs and Field Trips.
Lisa Lava-Kellar, Naturalist, 663–9661.

Voice Lessons for Non-Singers and Singers—Experienced teacher, personal expression focus, group and individual lessons. Kathleen Moore, 668–8146.

CELLO & CHAMBER ENSEMBLE LESSONS. Highly professional cellist-soloist, chamber musician. Experienced and successful teacher, Vladimir Babin is currently accepting students. Call 761–6985.

Meditation Course 5 Thurs. eves., starts Jan. 16.
Yoga Class 6 Tues. eves., begins Jan. 14.
Overnight Meditation Course Dec. 6–7.
Public Services Sundays 9:30 a.m. & 5 p.m.
For more information, call the Zen Buddhist Temple, (313) 761–6520.

MUSIC LESSONS: Voice/flute/piano. All ages. Flexible schedules. Offer discounts. Master's degree. Very experienced. Debbie, 485–8590.

WOMEN'S RELATIONSHIPS
A support group with a Christian perspective. Six wks. beginning Tues. Jan. 7–Feb. 18, 7–9 p.m. or Wed. Jan. 8–Feb. 19, 9:30–11:30 a.m. (no class Jan. 21 & 22). Cost: $120, which includes one optional counseling session during the six weeks. Facilitator: Barbara M. Reid, M.S.W. Call (313) 994–7094 to register.

Step Into the Future Seminars©
How to live, learn, and work in the world of tomorrow—today! Identify your passions and discuss self-work options. Low cost, in-home. Be a host and attend FREE! Create YOUR future today—secure tomorrow. For more info or brochure, call (517) 423–6765. AA.

Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts
Private lessons & classes
Highly qualified teachers
For info or interview, call 995–4625.

Ann Arbor School of Massage and Bodywork
Barry Ryder, Director
State-licensed Massage Programs
Call for a brochure: 662–1572.

SONGWRITING
A path to discovery and healing.
Musicians/Non. Laura, 971–6627.

Wanted

We buy old Oriental rugs. Navajo, tapestry. Any size, any condition. 769–8555.

Life cast models wanted: both male and female. Athletic with great muscular definition, weightlifter build. $50–$75 per hour. 747–6307.

Named Best Home-Based Business in 1995
Unique positions being filled. No competition. Materials protected by patents. No age or race difference. Call (313) 665–7357 for information.

Real Estate

NOTICE: All real estate advertising in this magazine is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." This magazine will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. For information, or to register a complaint, call the Fair Housing Center at 994–3426.

CLASSIFIEDS

Commercial Space

PRIME LOCATION
413 East Huron
8,700 sq. ft.
Large parking lot
Call 483–4657

DOWNTOWN JACKSON—Prominent storefront for lease. Ideal location for restaurant. Call Chuck Ahronheim, The Brokerage House, (517) 788–8733, cahronheim@dmci.net

Wanted

LOOKING FOR OFFICE/STUDIO: Must have access to bathroom, waiting room, parking. 400 sq. ft. min., in or close to downtown AA. I'm an established AA voice/music therapist. K. Moore, 668–8146.

Rentals

FOR RENT—712 W. Huron Apartments. Drive by or call 332–3764 for recorded information.

For Sale by Owner

THE MICHIGAN GROUP
662–8600

WHY RENT? Buy this 3-bedroom home with new roof, windows, siding, large deck, hardwood floors. $67,900. Gail Sinelli, 761–4564. (T–06)

KING SCHOOL—Four bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, hardwood floors on heavily treed lot close to U-M. $199,500. Gail Sinelli, 761–4564. (F–4)

PANORAMIC VIEWS of pristine natural beauty await you! This 4,500-sq.-ft. home now under construction backs to Radrick Farms and Matthaei Gardens. The 5 levels of unique living options will appeal to your desire to escape into private spaces. $489,000. Barb Cooper, 769–0936. (E–13)

AREA OF FINE HOMES—You must see this center-entry classic colonial. 4–5 bedrooms, 3,500 sq. ft. with walkout lower level. Nancy Harrison, 994–0124. (D–12)

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE close to U-M medical center. 1,850 sq. ft., one story and basement. Immediately available, ample parking. Tim Harrison, 994–0124. (H–21)

MAJESTIC BUILDING SITE—Dexter schools. Four plush acres, stocked pond, partially wooded, well in new survey on paved road. Terms available at $69,900. Near I-94 and Baker Road. Joe Wilt, 201–4569 (pager). (B–21)

ANDERSON ASSOCIATES
998–0900

CONDO SPECIALIST—Selling or buying? To be certain, call Mary Murton at (313) 913–0936. The Anderson Associates, 998–0900.

NEW CONSTRUCTION for only the most discriminating of tastes! Four bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, large formal rooms, spacious kitchen open to family room with fireplace. Alicia D. Ping, 429–3125.

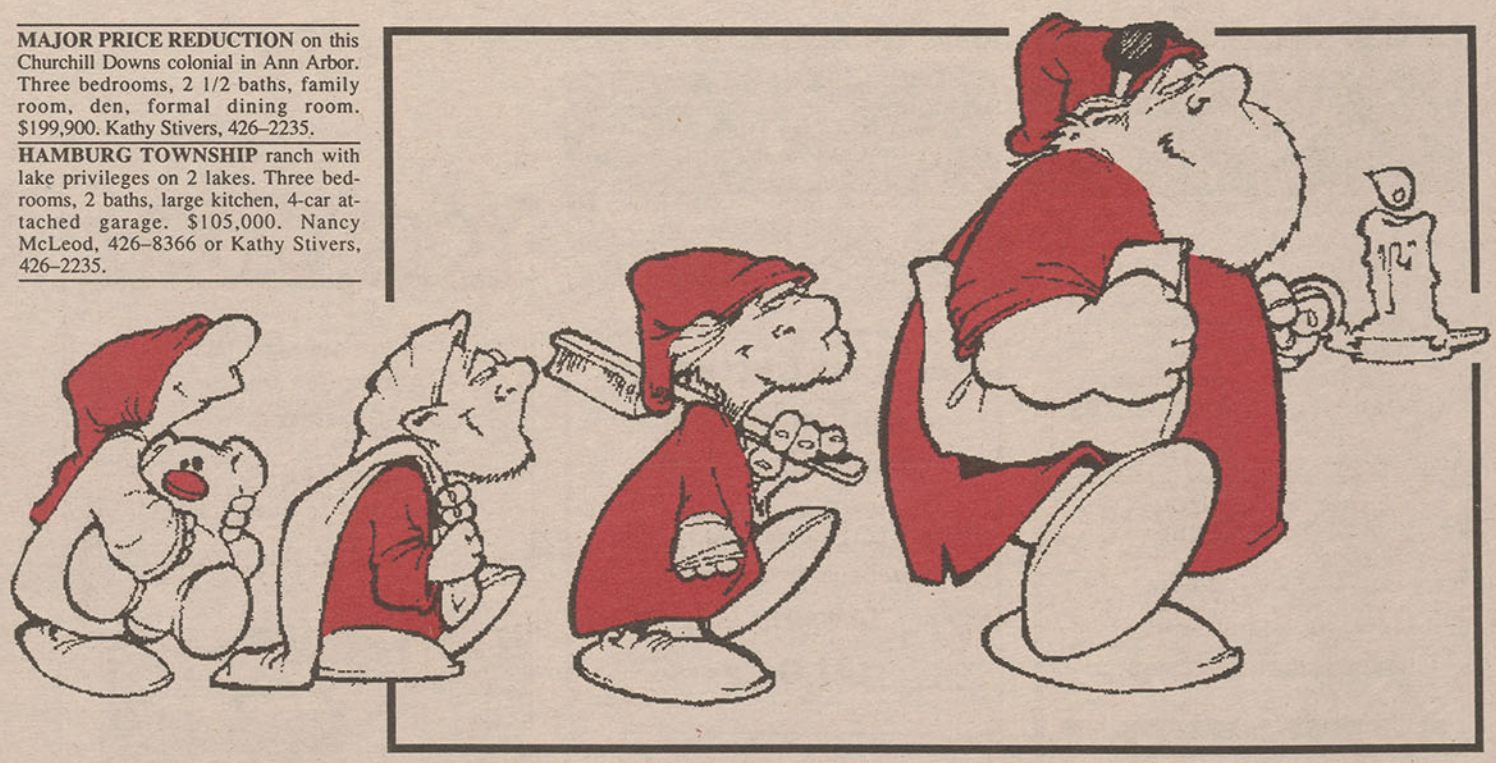
DRIVE UP an expansive circular drive through professionally landscaped gardens, open the exquisite front doors to an impressive open staircase and spectacular view of the golf course. $399,000. Alicia D. Ping, 429–3125.

SPECTACULAR LAKEFRONT VIEW from this 3-bedroom, 2-bath home on 3/4 acre in Webster Township. Dexter schools. $199,900. Kathy Stivers, 426–2235 or Nancy McLeod, 426–8366.

WOODS, ROLLING TERRAIN, Dexter schools. Choose from 3–5 acre parcels priced from $65,900 to $79,900. Kathy Stivers, 426–2235 or Nancy McLeod, 426–8366.

MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION on this Churchill Downs colonial in Ann Arbor. Three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room, den, formal dining room. $199,900. Kathy Stivers, 426–2235.

HAMBURG TOWNSHIP ranch with lake privileges on 2 lakes. Three bedrooms, 2 baths, large kitchen, 4-car attached garage. $105,000. Nancy McLeod, 426–8366 or Kathy Stivers, 426–2235.



Ann Arbor Observer Classifieds/Personals Form

Reach over 111,000 readers

Mail or bring this form to: 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 or Fax (313) 769-3375.
Please include payment of check, cash, Visa or MC.

DEADLINE: JANUARY ISSUE—DECEMBER 10

RATES & GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFIEDS AND PERSONALS

- Each letter, punctuation mark, and word space counts as a box. Capital letters use two boxes.
- Average 36 characters per line.
- Use only standard abbreviations.
- Move word to the next line if it does not fit completely at the end of a line.
- Ads will run in the next open issue.
- **For Classifieds Only—**
- $5.50 per line, or fraction of a line, per insertion. 2 line minimum.
- **For Personals Only—**
- All personal ads requesting written responses will be charged $5.50 per line.
- All ads are assigned a single number for Personal Call and written responses.
- An instruction sheet for Personal Call will be mailed to the advertiser.
- Written responses will be forwarded to the advertiser up to 60 days after the ad appears in print.
- Ads must be submitted in writing by the deadline. **No phone calls please.**

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

❑ PLEASE CHARGE MY: ❑ VISA ❑ MASTERCARD ❑ CHECK ENCLOSED
ACCOUNT NUMBER _____
EXP. DATE _____
SIGNATURE _____

First four lines are free for singles seeking a relationship through Personals.
Businesses and organizations do not qualify.

PERSONALS—(See ad on page 128 for detailed information on placing or responding to a personal ad by mail or phone.)

CHECK APPROPRIATE PERSONALS CATEGORY

❑ Women Seeking Men ❑ Women Seeking Women ❑ Friendships
❑ Men Seeking Women ❑ Men Seeking Men ❑ General Personals

NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL LINES _____
X $5.50 PER LINE _____
TOTAL $ _____

CLASSIFIEDS—

RUN AD IN:

JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	NUMBER OF LINES _____
APR.	MAY	JUNE	X $5.50 PER LINE _____
JULY	AUG.	SEP.	X # OF MONTHS _____
OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL $ _____

CHECK APPROPRIATE CLASSIFIEDS CATEGORY

❑ SERVICES ❑ ENTERTAINMENT ❑ WANTED ❑ FOR SALE
❑ LESSONS & WORKSHOPS ❑ REAL ESTATE ❑ MISCELLANEOUS

| | | |

SERVICES

BUSINESS

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ACME HAULING
Rubbish & Trash Removal
Commercial & Residential
$25 minimum *Short Moves* *Owned & Operated*
Clean and reliable *by* **Jeff Yeargain**

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Graphic Arts

DAVID ZINN
Illustration & Design
"bright ideas from a slightly bent mind"
- Ann Arbor News
letterheads - logos
brochures - cartooning
poster and T-shirt designs
769-1890
fax: 769-4348

THE PORTABLE C.F.O.'s
Economical Business, Financial & Internet Consultants
MAIL 3616 Huron River Drive W., Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Specialize in Business Evaluations,
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Get A Web Page Of Your Own...
* Small Business Packages Start at $150 to Create
+$10 Monthly Storage
* Individualized Background Graphics
& Scanned Images of Your Photos or Logos
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http://www.izzy.net/~aadinex/dhmweb.htm
Color Samples are available
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AADE Web Designs, Box 6054, Ann Arbor MI, 48106

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Enjoy:
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Barbara Davis **213–2827**

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Additions, All Remodeling
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665-9850
Ann Arbor

Building and Remodeling (continued)

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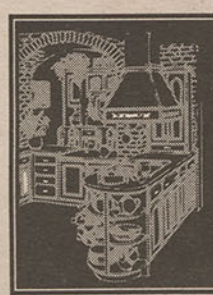
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761-8820

Quality 1st. Repair & Renovation, Inc.
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David D. Rasmussen
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All aspects of residential remodeling
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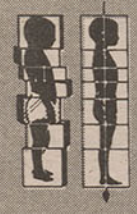

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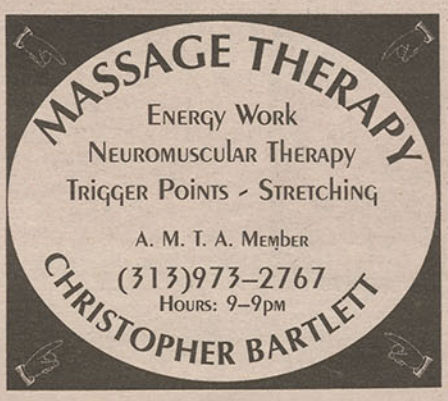

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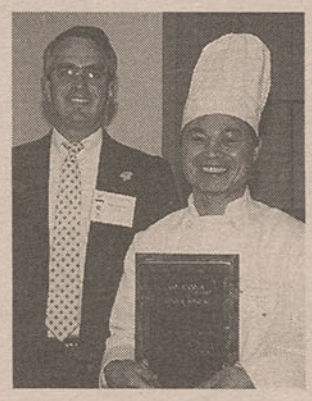

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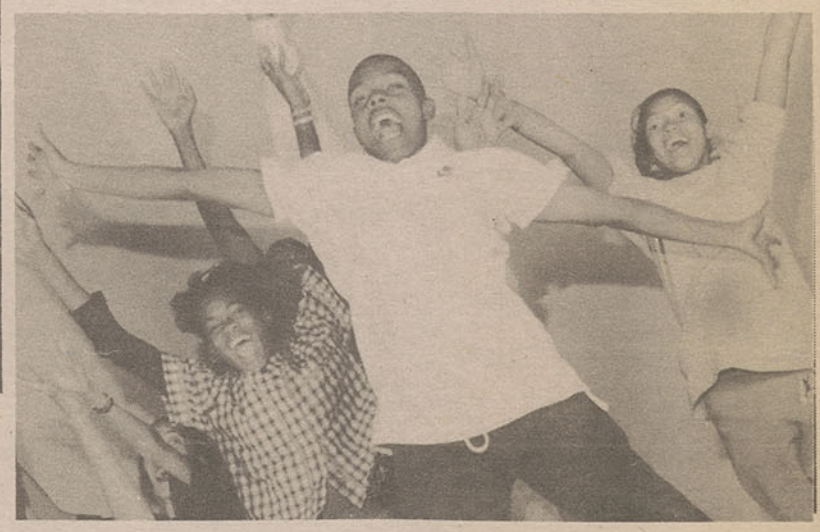
EVENTS AT A GLANCE



Tracy Leigh Komarmy (above) and Peter Birkenhead (not pictured) host the 11th annual "Raise the Roof" benefit for the Performance Network, Sat., Dec. 7, at the Michigan Theater. This year's smorgasbord of music, dance, and theater features (clockwise from left) singer-songwriter Whitley Setrakian, dancer Kelly Borcherts and friends, actor Malcolm Tulip, and the nationally acclaimed Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit, among others.

*A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. **103** for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p. **103**.*

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Gillian Welch (country singer-songwriter), Dec. 3
- Orange Then Blue (jazz), Dec. 4
- Tom Paxton (folkie singer-songwriter), Dec. 7
- Koko Taylor (blues), Dec. 7
- Martin Sexton (singer-songwriter), Dec. 8
- Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys (Cajun), Dec. 11
- Sally Fingerett (pop-folk singer-songwriter), Dec. 13
- The Why Store (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 14
- "Ragtime Holiday Bash" with pianists Bill Albright, James Dapogny, Bob Seeley, Mike Montgomery, & Kerry Price, Dec. 15
- Jorma Kaukonen (blues-rock), Dec. 15
- Pat Donohoe (blues & jazz), Dec. 21
- George Bedard & the Kingpins, Cub Koda, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown (blues & rockabilly), Dec. 28
- Jimmie Dale Gilmore & Matraca Berg (country), Dec. 29
- Beausoleil (Cajun), Dec. 30
- "Jazz Revisited" New Year's Eve concert with James Dapogny Chicago Jazz Band, Topsy Chapman, & Butch Thompson (jazz), Dec. 31

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Herdman, Hills, & Mangsen (folk), Dec. 12
- Joel Mabus (folk), Dec. 14

Classical & Religious Music

- Arianna String Quartet, Dec. 1
- Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 1
- E17 early music ensemble, Dec. 1
- Pianists Angela Chang & Alvin Chow, Dec. 3
- Pianist Kevin Bylsma & local singers in a "Britten Extravaganza," Dec. 4
- Chanticleer male chorus, Dec. 4
- U-M Friars, Dec. 6
- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 7
- Ypsilanti High School Chamber Singers, Dec. 7
- Ann Arbor Symphony & the University Choral Union in Handel's "Messiah," Dec. 7 & 8
- Ann Arbor Civic Chorus, Dec. 8
- EMU "Lessons & Carols," Dec. 8
- U-M Michigan Chamber Players, Dec. 8
- U-M Percussion Ensemble, Dec. 8
- Soprano Kathleen Battle & friends, Dec. 13
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 14
- U-M Gospel Chorale, Dec. 14
- Quorum Chamber Arts Collective, Dec. 14
- Community "Messiah" Sing, Dec. 15
- Galliard Brass Ensemble, Dec. 15
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 15
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church "Festival of Lessons & Carols," Dec. 15
- First Presbyterian Church "Lessons & Carols," Dec. 24
- First Baptist Church "Festival of Lessons & Carols," Dec. 24
- Harpists Lynne Aspnes & John Wickey, Dec. 28

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- "Apartment 3A" (Purple Rose Theater), Dec. 1, 4–8, 11–15, & 18–21
- "Burn This" (U-M Basement Arts), Dec. 5–7
- "The Yeomen of the Guard" (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 5–8
- "Sherlock Holmes" (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 5–8
- "Red, White, and Blue" (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 7 & 8
- Performance Network "Raise the Roof" showcase, Dec. 7
- "Fleetwood Diner" (U-M Basement Arts), Dec. 12–14
- "The Nutcracker" (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 12–14
- "The 13 Clocks" (Wayne State University Opera Workshop), Dec. 13
- "The Harlem Nutcracker" (Donald Byrd/The Group), Dec. 18–21
- "A Christmas Carol" (St. Andrew's Players), Dec. 20
- Brian Mallon's one-man show "Secrets of the Celtic Heart," Dec. 22

Lectures & Readings

- Fiction writer Charles Baxter, Dec. 3
- Poet Ray McNeice, Dec. 3
- Crime novelist James Ellroy, Dec. 4
- Fiction writer Shirley Geok-lin Lim, Dec. 5
- Fiction writers George Rabasa & Jonis Agee, Dec. 7

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Eddie Clark, Dec. 5–7
- Comic Frank Vignola, Dec. 12–14
- Comic John Heffron, Dec. 19–21
- Live broadcast of "A Prairie Home Companion," Dec. 21
- Comic Blair Shannon, Dec. 26–29 & 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Ypsilanti Festival of Lights, nightly
- Domino's Christmas Light Display, nightly
- Holiday bazaars, Dec. 1, 4, 5, 7, 10
- Christmas Creche Display, Dec. 6–9
- Saline Christmas Parade & Santa's Village, Dec. 6
- Waterloo Farm Museum Victorian Christmas, Dec. 7 & 8
- Washtenaw Council for the Arts "Art Day," Dec. 7 & 8
- Ypsilanti "New Year Jubilee," Dec. 31

Family & Kids' Stuff

- Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas, Dec. 1 & 8
- Gemini children's concert, Dec. 1
- Kiwanis Christmas Sing, Dec. 1
- "The Wacky World of Animals" (EMU Music Department), Dec. 6
- "The Play Called Noah's Flood" (EMU Theater of the Young), Dec. 6 & 7
- "The Silent Princess" (Ellipsis Theater Ensemble), Dec. 13–15, 20–22, & 27–29
- "Sing-Along with Santa and Sam" (Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra), Dec. 14
- "The Giant French Magical Fantasy Toy Box Adventure" (U-M Museum of Art), Dec. 15

Miscellaneous

- Kiwanis Christmas Sale, Dec. 6 & 7
- Main Street Children's Holiday Parade, Dec. 8

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- A pagan Yule Festival (Dec. 21) and two Boar's Head Festivals (Dec. 6–8 and Dec. 14 & 15)

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